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Colts quarterback Peyton Manning

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PACAF CO: Proposed move could make 5th, 13th more efficient Page 3

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Labor Department drafts proposed rules that will spell out rights of returning guardsmen, reservists

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AP photo

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States

Radioactive fallout suit: Idaho residents who believe Cold War nuclear testing harmed their health will testify before a National Academy of Sciences panel to say they should be included in a federal compensation program.

About 150 Idaho residents have written to the board to argue that radioactive fallout from atmospheric testing in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s also affected Idaho.

The academy's Board on Radiation Effects Research scheduled the hearing for Nov. 6.

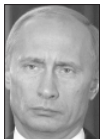
The board will release a report in March that will recommend whether the government should expand the compensation program.

World

Greek airliner: A police search concluded there was no threat to a Greek airliner forced to make an emergency landing in Britain after a bomb alert, officers said Monday.

Police searched the Airbus A340 airliner and the luggage of some 300 passengers for six hours after the Olympic Airlines plane landed with a fighter jet escort at Stansted airport north of London on Sunday.

But police found no evidence of a bomb, and the plane resumed its journey to the United States just after 12:30 (11:30 GMT) Monday.



Putin

Russian reforms: President Vladimir Putin put sweeping political reforms in motion Monday, sending to Russia's parliament a bill on eliminating the popular election of regional governors and district parliament races.

Putin has explained the proposal is a necessary response to the Beslan school hostage seizure and other terror attacks, saying a strong federal government is needed to fend off threats. His opponents describe the reform as a deadly blow to Russia's fledgling democracy.

The motion would abolish popular elections of regional governors, who instead

would be nominated by the president and confirmed by local legislatures — a move critics said would further strengthen an authoritarian streak in the Kremlin's policy.

Bird flu victim: A woman was confirmed Monday to be suffering from bird flu, the second known human victim of the disease in Thailand since July, but officials said there was no evidence it was the result of human-to-human transmission.

The woman, identified only as Pranom, 32, was found to be suffering from the deadly H5N1 virus of avian influenza but her condition was improving. Charal Trinwuthipong, director general of the Disease Control Department, told reporters. He said Pranom's 6-year-old son is also sick.

Koizumi reshuffles cabinet: Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi reshuffled his Cabinet on Monday to add momentum to his troubled reform agenda and lift his lagging popularity ratings in Japan, but analysts said the appointments only signified that his grip on power appears to be slipping.

In the third Cabinet shake-up since taking power in April 2001, Koizumi named 11 new ministers to his 17-member Cabinet. But he retained his financial team of Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki, Trade Minister Shiro Nakagawa and Economy Minister Heizo Takenaka.

Koizumi ranked top reforms and an economic recovery at the top of his agenda.

New Panchen Lama: The 14-year-old boy picked by Beijing as the new Panchen Lama, the second-highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism, has praised communist rule in Tibet in what the government described as his first published interview.

Gyaltsen Norbu also reportedly said religious freedom in Tibet is "fully respected." His comments, carried by state media, come amid complaints by activists abroad that government controls are damaging Tibet's religious institutions, the foundation of its Buddhist society.

Myanmar political prisoners: Myanmar's opposition National League for Democracy party marked its 16th anniversary Monday with a fresh call for the country's military rulers to free its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other political prisoners.

Some 400 party stalwarts, along with for-

eign diplomats, U.N. officials, representatives of other political parties and the media attended a low-key ceremony at the party's headquarters in the capital, Yangon.

During the ceremony, NLD party chairman Aung Shwe and central executive committee member Soe Myint read out a statement calling for the release of Suu Kyi, party vice chairman Tin Oo and all other political prisoners.

Japanese kidnappings: Japan could consider economic sanctions against impoverished North Korea to force it to provide more details about Japanese citizens it kidnapped in the 1970s and '80s, Japan's new foreign minister, Nobutaka Machimura, said Monday.

North Korea has admitted to kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens to teach its spies, and released five of them in 2002. Pyongyang says eight other victims have died, but officials have refused to respond to Tokyo's demands for details of their fate to allow suspensions if they are still alive.

The two sides met in Beijing over the weekend, but Japan said the North had not investigated its claims sufficiently and Tokyo demanded more detailed reports.

Indonesian torture: Indonesian security forces in Aceh province are systematically torturing suspected rebels, including subjecting them to electric shock, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report Monday.

The allegations, based on interviews with 35 rebels being held in Indonesian jails, were denied by military officials in the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island.

Swedish politician's death: Sweden's Supreme Court said Monday it will hear an appeal from Nov. 10-12 to reinstate the prison sentence for the man convicted of killing Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

Mijailo Mijailovic was convicted in March of fatally stabbing Lindh on Sept. 10, 2003, as she shopped unguarded in a downtown Stockholm department store. But his life prison sentence was changed to psychiatric care after he appealed.

The Supreme Court will decide if that appeals court ruling should stand, spokeswoman Synnove Gustavsson said.

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Hester: 5th, 13th AF headquarters may merge

By T.D. FLACK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Pacific Air Force commander said Sunday that he is considering merging the headquarters for Yokota's 5th Air Force and Guam's 13th Air Force into one entity.

Gen. Paul V. Hester, in Tokyo to help Japan Air Self-Defense Force celebrate its 50th anniversary, made the comments to a small group of journalists at Yokota Air Base.

"Our citizens expect and I would want them to demand that we, as military officers, are talking butcher paper up on the wall and we're writing out a thousand options of how to make both their taxpayer dollars go further as well as make us more efficient and more lethal when lethality is required on the battlefield," Hester said.

"So as we write up all these thousands of options on the wall, we then start trying to put reality on top of those options."

Hester, a former U.S. Air Force commander at Yokota, said combining the headquarters elements, staffed now with 100 troops in each location, could result in more efficiency from fewer people, perhaps about 150.

"We're trying to make [the headquarters] more meaningful for the future against the threat that we're currently seeing so I think it's useful to acknowledge that ... we are trying to determine what is the best path for

the future," he said.

Hester stressed the issue isn't resolved and that, should the headquarters merge, he's unsure where the new entity will be located.

"With that butcher paper," he said, "we can sit in our ... white tower insulated from the real world and develop a lot of options. But then once we take those options out of the ivory tower and overlay them on top of reality — then we find budget constraints and political constraints and governmental constraints that have a way of helping shape what is the art of 'possible' in the real world."

He said what makes perfectly good military sense is only a subset of what will be decided as a national policy.

Hester also said there have been a "number of thoughts as to how the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force could be a part of all

of our bases."

He called Misawa Air Base in northern Japan — which houses the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Army, as well as a Japan Air Self-Defense Force headquarters — a prime example of joint use.

"It is a model of Japanese and Americans working together and how well that is accepted" in the local community, Hester said.

"I know that there are ongoing discussions locally as to 'is there a way to capitalize on that model here at Yokota?' I think we'll have to see how those discussions mature," he said.

Military transformation was among key topics Sunday, with Hester labeling it as one of the Pacific Air Force's biggest challenges. He said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has "put us on a path with a vision of how to transform from ... Cold War ... to now to face the new threats

that we have around the world."

He said technological advances are key in evaluating the U.S. presence in the Pacific.

"I think its useful to remind ourselves ... that we have made such technological advances across all our militaries — the United States included — we've made such remarkable technological advances that in fact we don't need as many people to achieve the same or even greater effects of the weapons systems that we currently have."

He also said changes won't happen overnight.

"It'll take time for those events to unfold. It'll take time for the serious conversations between our two countries, but I think that's where you'll see us continue to work over the next several years, if not a full decade."

E-mail T.D. Flack at: flack@stripes.com

Sasebo at TCCOR-3 for Typhoon Meari

By DAVID ALLEN
AND GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — This southern Japan base was in Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness Three on Monday, anticipating possible rough weather when, and if, slow-moving Typhoon Meari passes later this week.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center in

Hawaii forecast Typhoon Meari, which means "echo" in Korean, to pass within 100 miles of Sasebo by 1 p.m. Thursday and within 97 miles of Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station by 7 a.m. Friday.

As of midday Monday, the typhoon was about 195 miles west of Okinawa and moving to the northeast at 1 mph.

"Confidence remains high that Typhoon Meari will pass northeast and pass southeast of the Sasebo area later this week," according to a forecaster with Sasebo's Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment. "A track west of Sasebo is unlikely but has not yet been ruled out."

When storms pass east of Sasebo, the impact is far less dramatic, in part because of natural landscape barriers, forecasters say.

The forecaster said there is a slim chance the typhoon could become quasi-stationary or begin moving southward once

reaching Kyushu on Wednesday or Thursday, then slowly return to a northeast track and completely move out of the area over the weekend.

At Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station in southwestern Honshu, forecasters predict the typhoon could bring tropical storm conditions at worst but will pose no danger to the area, said Master Sgt. Lesli Cookley, a base spokeswoman.

Okina remained in TCCOR Storm Watch on Monday as forecasters with the 18th Weather Flight on Kadema Air Base warily watched Meari's progress or lack thereof.

"There's always the possibility it could make a turn toward us but that's a remote possibility," said Staff Sgt. Jaika Hawthorne, a Kadema forecaster. "When it does start moving again we expect to feel some more effects of the storm but no gusts more than 40 or 45 knots per hour (46 to 52 mph)."

Okinawa was socked by winds gusting up to 70 mph Sunday, but was spared a full fury of Meari's 150 mph winds as the storm unexpectedly stayed some 90 miles to the south.

No major damage was reported and the U.S. bases on Okina returned to business as usual Monday morning.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@stripes.com
E-mail Greg Tyler at: tyler@stripes.com

Changing of the flag



TERRY SPAIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Capt. Chris Noble, left, skipper of the USS Coronado, presents Vice Adm. Jonathan Greenert, 7th Fleet commander, with the admiral's flag at a ceremony to mark the move back to the USS Blue Ridge. The 7th Fleet staff had been operating from the Coronado since March, when it came from Point Loma, Calif., and the Blue Ridge went into dry dock. The Coronado will return to California, where it will be decommissioned.

War, profit goal end free films at Iwakuni

By GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

Continuing costs of fighting the war on terror have prompted an end to free movies for Marines.

The 10 remaining Marine Corps movie theaters worldwide offering free movies, including the Sakura Theater at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station in Japan, have been ordered by Marine Corps Headquarters to begin charging, said Ashleigh Pipes, marketing director for Iwakuni's Marine Corps Community Services.

Moviewegers headed to the Sakura must start buying tickets beginning Friday — \$2.50 each for those ages 10 and older; \$1 for children ages 9 and younger.

"The move is from Marine Corps headquarters and applies to everyone. No one here made the decision. All we decided here was the price, and the command approved the lowest price we recommended," Pipes said Monday.

She said the Corps's decision to charge for movies is part of the service's ongoing efforts to help pay costs of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ticket cost also results from a new policy requiring recreation activities to generate a 4 percent net operating profit, she said.

An MCCS goal, Pipes said, is to continue to offer such services at 25 percent less than local commercial and municipal sources.

The Army and Air Force Exchanges Services show Marine Corps movies in Okinawa. Pipes said movies in Iwakuni are the only ones shown in Japan by MCCS.

Twenty theaters are operated on Marine Corps installations worldwide. Of those, AAFES operates six and MCCS 14, Pipes explained. For first-run movies, AAFES charges \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children and, for other films, \$3 and \$1 respectively. Four of the MCCS theaters already were

charging admission, Pipes said: from \$1 to \$3 for adults and \$1 to \$1.50 for children. The other 10 movie theaters have been free, until now.

All ticket prices apply to civilian employees as well as servicemembers.

In the past, Marine Corps installation commanders determined whether charges would be levied for MCCS activities and what they'd be. The new policy allows installation commanders still to set the final charge, up to a maximum of \$3, Pipes said.

"MCAS Iwakuni base personnel and family members will still be able to enjoy our free services for which there is admission on other Marine Corps bases," Pipes said. "The swimming pools, fitness classes and most special events and entertainment, such as the movie Comedy Showcase, will remain free."

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tyler@stripes.com

Report: Army could shorten combat tours

Stars and Stripes

The Army is considering cutting the length of its 12-month combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, senior Army officials have told The New York Times.

Senior Army personnel officials, as well as top Army Reserve and National Guard officials, say the Army's ability to recruit and retain soldiers will erode unless tours are shortened, to between six and nine months, roughly equivalent to the seven-month tours that are the norm in the Marine Corps, the Times reported in its Monday edition.

But other Army officials responsible for combat operations and war planning have significant concerns that the Army — at its current size and as now configured — cannot meet projected requirements for Iraq and Afghanistan unless active-duty and Reserve troops spend 12 months on the ground.

Officials propose 6- to 9-month deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan; other officials hesitant

Officials told the Times it is too early to predict if or when a new deployment policy might take effect. But the proposal collides with the need to maintain troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army planners say they must at least prepare for the possibility that it will be necessary to keep troops at the current levels in Iraq — 138,000 — through 2007, even though no political decision has been made in that regard.

The prospect of lengthy combat tours already appears to be affecting recruitment. The Guard has set a goal of 56,000 recruits for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, but is likely to end up with about 51,000, he said.

It would be the first time since 1994 that the Guard has missed its signup goal, the paper reported.

"The Army definitely wants to reduce the stress on the force," a senior Army official told Reuters news service. "Recruiting and retention are of concern. But we're nowhere near the panic state."

The official told Reuters that there was concern among some in the Army that this step could undermine units on the battlefield and that any change might be at least two years away.

"Shorter tours cause more turbulence," with more soldiers in transit to and from the combat zones, the official said.

"It affects cohesiveness. It affects their ability to conduct their duty in a combat zone by knowing the terrain, knowing the enemy and knowing who is friendly. People come in and they'll be looking to get out."

About 40 percent of U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are National Guard and Reserve part-time troops summoned to active duty from civilian life, Reuters noted Monday.

In addition, the Army has issued stop-loss orders preventing tens of thousands of soldiers designated to serve in Iraq or Afghanistan from leaving the military if their voluntary service commitment ends during their deployment.

The Army last year began requiring its soldiers to serve 12-month stints in Iraq as Pentagon plans to scale back the number of U.S. troops there were scuttled by the reality of a tenacious and spreading insurgency.

More Guard, reservists note civilian job troubles

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — An increasing number of guardsmen and reservists are returning home from war to find they no longer have their jobs, or have been snubbed for promotions and raises in spite of a 1994 law that protects them, Labor Department officials said.

An increase in complaints prompted the department to submit proposed regulations that both clarify and better enforce the law, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act of 1994.

It also launched an education campaign for employers and employees on protections afforded under the USERRA, which prohibits the firing of members of the reserve component, passing them up for promotions, or not paying benefits just because they are called to active duty.

Usually, violations are rectified easily, said a spokesman for the Labor Department.

"The biggest problem was a lack of understanding, and once they were told of the laws, employers, as always did the right thing," a Labor Department official said.

However, 6 percent to 8 percent of the average 1,000 complaints filed over the past few

How to address employment problems

Here is a "game plan" for Reserve or National Guard members who are having employment-related problems with their regular employer. Lt. Cmdr. Mark Shelley, ombudsman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in Arlington, Va., wrote this guide. Go to:

■ your company's human resources or personnel department. These people are more familiar with the law than first-line supervisors. Once the human resources manager knows you are having a problem, he or she can often resolve it with one or two phone calls.

■ If you work for an organization that does not have a human resources point of contact, or if that individual can't or won't help you, or if you are already in the field, go to:

■ your unit's commanding officer. Any CO of the Guard or Re-

serve has the responsibility to help his or her people with employment conflicts, questions or disputes.

■ If your CO can't help you, or if you are the commanding officer who needs guidance to help one of your unit's members, go to:

■ your local representative of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. To find that person, go to www.esgr.org, which lists contacts by state. If you do not have access to the Internet, call ESGR's national headquarters (800) 336-4590. An ESGR representative will tell you what to contact in your home state.

■ If ESGR's state and national network of professional advisers, mediators and "Mission One" volunteers can't get results, they will then recommend your case to:

■ The Department of Labor's

Veterans' Employment Training Service, Division of Enforcement. The Labor Department, backed by the Justice Department, is authorized to take legal action against employers violating the laws that protect activated Guard and Reserve members. If your employer is breaking the law, they will bring the full weight of the U.S. government to bear on your case.

■ If you are not happy with the results of the Labor Department's intervention, the final resort is to:

■ hire a private attorney at your own expense. Not often, but sometimes, employers are able to make a legally defensible case to the Labor Department that justifies their failure to reinstate Guard or Reserve employees after a call-up. If the decision does not go in your favor, your last recourse is a civil lawsuit.

— Lisa Burgess

years were resolved only after the aggrieved took the matter to the judicial system, the spokesman said.

That percentage is too high for Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

"We've been hearing about the Guard and Reserve coming home from serving their country, from having been in Iraq and harm's way, and not having a job, and this has concerned the

senator," said Daschle press secretary Sarah Feinberg. "While a lot of employers are doing a lot ... one servicemember who loses his or her job is one too many."

The Labor Department pub-

lished a draft of regulations in the Federal Register on Sept. 20. It will be open for public comment for 60 days, after which officials will consider the comments before implementing the final regulations.

Some of the proposed regulations further define discrimination and spell out burden of proof and protections afforded employers.

"These regulations will spell out the rights of our returning servicemen and women and the responsibilities of employers to honor their service," Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said in a statement. "This administration will back up these first-time-ever USERRA regulations with aggressive outreach and enforcement."

Compared to pre-global war on terror figures, the massive activation boosted the number of complaints filed to the Labor Department by 35 percent in fiscal 2002, with 1,195 and 1,315 complaints, respectively.

As of Thursday, a total of 427,305 guardsmen and reservists have been mobilized for the war on terror since Sept. 11, 2001. Of that total, 164,095 are mobilized today.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at sjontz@staris.com. The regulation can be viewed and comments submitted online at www.regulations.gov and entering VETS-U-04 in the keyword section.

Red Feather begins final push to gather charitable donations

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Red Feather Campaign organizers and supporters will make one last push this weekend to raise money for the needy living in local communities near base.

Red Feather — which stands for courage and good conduct — is a nonprofit organization on base that annually seeks charitable donations for the elderly, destitute, physically and mentally handicapped and orphaned children in the Misawa area.

It differs from the Combined Federal Campaign — another large charity drive at military bases overseas — in that donations go to local communities in Japan, rather than statewide or international organizations, said Senior Master Sgt. Oscar Williams, Red Feather Campaign project officer.

"This helps people outside of our gate," Williams said, adding that the Red Feather charity drive began in 1958 and occurs throughout Japan.

The Red Feather Campaign is a

way for people in Japan covered by the status of forces agreement "to give money back to the local communities," he said. "The money raised here is used in the Misawa community."

Last year, Misawa's Red Feather committee gave \$18,000 to that community. Williams said the goal is expecting to raise more than \$15,000 this year.

This year's campaign started Sept. 1 and ends Sunday.

This weekend, several groups are to hold Red Feather fund-raising activities on base.

Naval Security Group Activity is sponsoring a Red Feather Fall Fest and Car Show on Saturday in the Makunishi ballroom and parking lot from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The registration fee for displaying an automobile or motorcycle is \$10 — also the entry fee for the break-dancing contest. Hamburgers, hot dogs, lumpia (a traditional, eggroll-like Filipino appetizer) and funnel cake will be sold. Call Petty Officer 1st Class Cheryl Sanders at DSN 222-7707 for more information.

Williams said representatives

from the base's Airman Leadership School are to be collecting donations at the base exchange on Saturday. This week, Sallars Elementary School is holding a coin drive, in which students can turn in different U.S. or Japanese coins each day; Cummings Elementary School previously held a similar fund-raiser, Williams said.

About 75 Red Feather collection cans also set up in unit shops.

Call Williams at DSN 226-4609 to donate or for more information.

U.S. military jets targeting Sadr City

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. jets pounded suspected Shiite militant positions in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City on Monday, killing at least five people and wounding 40. Elsewhere, insurgents detonated two car bombs, killing seven members of the National Guard in the latest attacks targeting Iraq's beleaguered security forces.

The airstrikes in Sadr City, a hotbed of insurgents loyal to renegade Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, struck several "positively identified" militant hideouts, U.S. military said.

Residents said explosions lit up the sky for hours before dawn.

Mangled vehicles, debris and shards of glass littered the streets. Five people were killed and 40 were wounded — including 15 women and nine children, said Dr. Qassem Saddam of the Imam Ali hospital.

At least two children wrapped in bloodstained bandages rested in hospital beds and one man suffered burns from head to toe.

Insurgents also fired three mortar rounds at a nearby U.S. Army base, but the shells fell short and exploded in a civilian neighborhood, said U.S. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Jim Hutton. It was not immediately known if there any casualties.

"While maintaining security is a primary concern, we are also very concerned about... putting the innocent residents of eastern Baghdad at risk," Hutton said. "The enemy shows no concern for the Iraqi people."

In Mosul, insurgents set off a car bomb as a seven-vehicle Iraqi National Guard patrol was passing by, killing at least four guardsmen and wounding three others, Police Chief Mustafa Abdul Karim said.

Guns followed up the blast with a burst of automatic weapons fire before fleeing the scene, said Lt. Col. Salah Jamer, the patrol's commander.

Near the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, a suicide attacker exploded a car bomb at an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint, killing several guard members, police Lt. Zeidan Mustafa said.

The attack at Saqlawiya, 12 miles northwest of Fallujah, also injured a number of people, said Ahmed Saleh Sarhan, a witness.

Details were not immediately available.

Iranian diplomat freed

BAGHDAD — A kidnapped Iranian diplomat was released Monday after nearly two months in captivity, the Iranian Embassy said.

Fereidoun Jahani, the Iranian consul in Karbala, spent 57 days in captivity after he was seized by a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq, which accused Iran of meddling in Iraq's affairs. The newly freed Jahani arrived at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad on Monday afternoon and was in good health, said Abbas Atari, director of the Iranian ambassador's office in Baghdad.

2 GIs charged

BAGHDAD — Two U.S. sol-

diers have been charged with murder in the death of an Iraqi civilian, the 1st Cavalry Division announced Monday.

A military statement identified the soldiers as Staff Sgt. Johnny Horne Jr. and Staff Sgt. Cardenas Alban, both from Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment from Fort Riley, Kan.

The military declined to provide details about the case, saying an investigation is ongoing.

England court-martial

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Pfc. Lyndine England will be court-martialed in January on charges stemming from the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, the Army announced Monday.

A motions hearing is scheduled for Dec. 1-3, with the trial scheduled for Jan. 17-28, according to Lt. Col. John Vines, commander of the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg.

England, a 21-year-old reservist stationed at Fort Bragg who is seen in some of the most notorious photos taken at the prison, was arraigned Friday, and did not enter a plea.

If convicted of all 19 counts, she could receive up to 38 years in jail, a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Among the charges England faces is conspiring to commit maltreatment of an Iraqi detainee by posing in a photograph holding a leash around the detainee, indirect acts with numerous soldiers and wrongfully creating sexually explicit photographs of herself.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,042 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 792 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 904 U.S. military members have died — 683 as a result of hostile action and 221 of nonhostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Aaron Boyles, 24, Alameda, Calif.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Sgt. Timothy Shane Folmar, 21, Sonoma, Texas; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine 2nd Lt. Ryan Leduc, 28, Panama, Ill.; died Friday as result of a noncombat vehicle accident in Rutbah, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Mateo, 20, Suffolk County, N.Y.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Philippine evacuation?

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government is preparing contingency plans to evacuate more than 4,000 citizens working in Iraq if violence escalates ahead in Iraq and British elections, the labor secretary said Sunday.

Some 4,300 migrant workers have been warned not to venture out of the U.S. camps where they are based. The government will distribute booklets to the workers explaining what to do in case of direct attacks on the bases.

Acknowledging the danger of traveling by land and air in Iraq, Labor Secretary Patricia Santos Tomas said the government was drawing up evacuation plans. She did not elaborate. Violence has intensified in the past few months in Iraq, where near-daily bombings take place and dozens of foreigners have been kidnapped, with some being killed.

From The Associated Press



Night Flight

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U.S. on guard for election-related terror plots

By DAN EGGEN
AND SPENCER S. HSU

The Washington Post

Agencies across the federal government are launching an aggressive and unusually open offensive aimed at thwarting terrorist plots before and during the presidential election in November.

Numerous law enforcement and counterterrorism officials also warned last week that a heightened threat of terrorist attack will persist through the January inauguration.

The government's strategy will include heavy surveillance by the FBI, increased checks of terrorism watch lists by local police and heightened security at polling places on Nov. 2, officials said. At the U.S. Capitol, Police Chief Terrance W. Gainer has ordered a number of his officers to wear sophisticated new equipment to protect them from a biological or chemical attack.

Counterterrorism officials concede they do not have new or specific intelligence outlining plans for an attack, but they say they remain alarmed by indications that al-Qaida and other terror groups might seek to influence U.S. elections as they did in Spain last year, setting off bombings on commuter trains in Madrid. By publicizing the government's disruption efforts, which will begin in earnest later this week, authorities say they hope to bring all any plans for similar attacks here.

The FBI, which is sharply limiting personal leave and transferring hundreds of agents to the effort, will focus heavily on individuals within the United States who are suspected of having ties to al-Qaida and other terrorist groups or who sympathize with their causes, according to officials who have been briefed on the plans.

Officials said the FBI's tactics, which will be outlined in an electronic communication to be sent to field offices this week, will include aggressive and often overt surveillance, widespread interviews and, in some cases, arrests. Local police will be urged to run the names of suspicious people through the federal government's terrorism watch list, even during traffic stops and other minor encounters.

"We are always asking ourselves the critical question, 'Have we done everything we can to thwart the next attack?'" said Michael A. Mason, who heads the FBI's Washington field office. "We ask ourselves that every day."

The warnings are reminiscent of those this summer when officials expressed extreme concern about the potential for terror attacks on the Republican and Democratic national conventions and the Olympic Games in Athens. Those events passed without any known disruption.

Earlier this month, the FBI's "04 Threat Task Force" issued an advisory saying there was no intelligence detailing the timing, status or targets of any plot, but it said an increased threat of terrorist action will continue through

On the issues



Should girls be required to tell parents before having an abortion?

President Bush



Parents should have the right to be involved in any major medical decision affecting their minor daughter. When young girls who are still legally minors find themselves in difficult situations regarding pregnancy, they may be easily influenced into making

harmful and even dangerous choices. We need to protect the health and safety of our young women by ensuring that they have appropriate guidance from responsible adults. I will continue to support parental notification laws so that parents are involved in the decisions of their minor daughters."

Sen. John Kerry



"Like any parent, I believe that parents should be fully involved in all decisions regarding their children. But we also have to take into account possible family dysfunction, including abuse or incest. I will not force a girl who

has been abused by a family member to ask the rapist for permission in making a difficult and heart-wrenching choice. Too many proposed laws have failed to include common sense bypass provisions to protect the victims of these brutal and unspeakable crimes."

the inauguration, according to sources with access to the memo. The bulletin indicated that New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington, D.C. were cities of interest, but also mentioned others, these sources said.

A national election security planning bulletin was sent today to the 50 states and the District, containing guidelines to governors and election officials for coordination of law enforcement, polling place and ballot-counting security, legal powers to order emergency election changes and public communication from now through Election Day.

Authorities are focused on a series of dates, starting with the annual meetings that begin Friday at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, both of which remain under a heightened "orange alert" along with other potential financial targets in Washington, New York and New Jersey. State and federal officials

said the threat window will remain open through the Nov. 2 elections, the Dec. 13 electoral college ballot and the inauguration.

Agents from various federal departments have begun visiting rental car and truck firms across the country, as well as limousine companies, to urge them to be on heightened alert for suspicious activity that might indicate a planned car or truck-bomb attack. Airline security officials have tightened procedures at airport checkpoints to hunt for explosives that might be hidden under a passenger's clothing.

Friday on Capitol Hill, officers scattered throughout the area were wearing new Level B Training vests and carrying protective hoods. Mario Tonzelli, who has been on the force for two years and was working at First Street and Constitution Avenue NW, said the new vest weighs about 40 pounds "but at the end of the day feels like 200 pounds."

Campaigns revving up for presidential debate

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — It's a classic pre-debate dance, maybe as important as the matchup itself: lower expectations for your candidate's performance and jab the other guy while you're at it.

While President Bush and Democrat Sen. John Kerry remained secluded half a country apart on Sunday in preparation for their prime-time showdown Thursday, representatives for each side employed their own double-barreled debate strategy.

In central Texas, where the president spent about four hours at his ranch preparing for the debate, White House communications director Dan Bartlett called Kerry a seasoned debater against whom Bush would merely "hold his own." But then Bartlett accused Kerry of taking more than one position on foreign policy issues — the subject of the first debate.

In Washington, Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe called Bush a "great debater," but then added that the president wins matchups on "style not substance."

Bush practiced a couple of hours Saturday and then another two hours Sunday. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., played Kerry. Mark McKinnon, media adviser to the Bush-Cheney campaign, was the moderator.

"Obviously, President Bush has had to practice twice as hard to learn all the different positions that John Kerry has taken on the big issues of the day," Bartlett said in a shot at the Massachusetts senator. "But he's ready to hold his own."

Low-balling expectations, Bar-

tlett said the White House was expecting 90 minutes of attacks from Kerry at the first of three presidential debates Thursday night in Coral Gables, Fla.

"Senator Kerry has been preparing his whole life for this moment," Bartlett said. "He was an all-star debater in prep school and an all-star debater in Ivy League. He was 20 years in the most august debating society in years, the United States Senate."

"Will President Bush step on his own line and maybe not pronounce a word right? I bet he will. But, I think after the 90 minutes, there won't be any ambiguity on his positions."

In a conference call with reporters Sunday, Democratic chairman McAuliffe recalled Bush's 2000 debate against Democrat Al Gore.

"George Bush defied expectations and won," McAuliffe said, praising the president. "Let's face it, George Bush is a great debater."

Then the jab: "He wins them on style not substance, and he wins them because he isn't always honest. The truth is George Bush has historically had problems being forthright at debates."

He cited examples from the 2000 debates in which Bush expressed concern about overcommitting the U.S. military around the world.

"As we know, he has over-stretched our military now to dangerous levels," McAuliffe said.

He said Bush also said that military missions need well-defined exit strategies. "Bush's own officials now concede there was no plan, no exit strategy for Iraq," McAuliffe said.

Mary Dalrymple of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Jeanne heads north; at least 6 dead in Fla.

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Hurricane Jeanne tore a path of destruction as it finished its march up storm-ravaged Florida. The fourth hurricane in six weeks shut down much of the state and prompted recovery plans on a scale never before seen in the nation.

At least six people died in the storm as it plowed across Florida's midsection in a virtual rerun for many residents still trying to regroup from earlier hurricanes. "This is the price we pay for living in paradise," said Phyllis Cole, laughing at her predicament as she waited along with about a dozen others Monday on a promise that a Home Depot store in Stuart would reopen. Everyone wanted the same thing: a generator.

None was in stock, but the manager thought some were on the way.

Jeanne came ashore around midnight Saturday with 120 mph wind, striking the same area hit three weeks ago by Hurricane Frances and rocketing debris scattered by earlier storms. About 2.6 million homes and businesses lost power, but some 800,000 had it restored by midday.

"We have some people in Florida who have been hit two or three times now by these hurricanes. They have to be miserable right now," Federal Emergency Management Agency director Mike Brown told CBS' "The Early Show."

Jeanne was at barely tropical storm strength when its center moved over Georgia late Monday morning, dumping up to 6 inches of rain. It later weakened into a tropical depression with steady winds near 35 mph.

The storm doomed South Carolina and spawned tornadoes that

damaged seven mobile homes and a building housing a Head Start center, said Cody Odom, of the Clarendon County Disaster Preparedness Agency.

Nicole Jillard and Ed Holzer waited 20 minutes in their car with their 3- and 1-year-old children for two bags of ice, a case of bottled water and 12 Meals-Ready-to-Eat at a Kmart parking lot in Stuart.

The drive-up service provided by the National Guard attracted a line of cars stretching at least a half-mile down U.S. 1, the coastal city's main thoroughfare.

"This is not good," Holzer said. "We don't have enough money to keep running to places like Fort Myers for food and water."

Irene Underwood, 88, waited at a Red Cross shelter in Melbourne for a ride to her sixth shelter since the hurricanes started.

"I can't go home because I don't have any power. It's terrible," Underwood said.



Jessica Williams, 15, removes tin from her family's cow pasture on Monday in Lorida, Fla. The Williams' family rodeo arena was damaged in Hurricane Charley but was completely destroyed in Hurricane Jeanne.

U.S. citizen to be sent to Saudi Arabia as enemy combatant

BY SONJA BARISIC
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A U.S. citizen held since late 2001 as an enemy combatant is to be sent to Saudi Arabia by Thursday under

an agreement made public Monday.

Yaser Esam Hamdi must give up his U.S. citizenship and renounce terrorism under the agreement, which includes a number of other restrictions.

Hamdi, whose case led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision limiting the president's powers to indefinitely hold wartime combatants, has been held without charges and will not be charged with any crime.

The four-page agreement was filed late Friday in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, along with a request by Hamdi's lawyer and the federal government to stay any court proceedings in the case until Oct. 1 so the agreement may be carried out.

Hamdi was being held in a Navy brig in Charleston, S.C. Justice Department officials said Monday they did not have immediate information on when Hamdi would be released.

Hamdi was born in Baton Rouge, La., in 1980 to Saudi parents.

The plan is for the Defense Department to fly Hamdi to Saudi Arabia, where he was raised, on a military plane, officials said.

Hamdi's lawyer, federal public defender Frank Dunham Jr., did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment Monday.

Under the agreement, Hamdi must live in Saudi Arabia for five years and not travel outside that country during that time.

The agreement negotiated by Dunham and the Justice Department forbids Hamdi from traveling to Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Hamdi also agreed not to travel to the United States for 10 years.

After that, he must get permission from the U.S. secretaries for defense and homeland security before initiating travel to the United States.

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Sheen stumps for congresswoman

Actor **Martin Sheen** did some real-life politicking for a congressional candidate who used to work on his television series "The West Wing."

Sheen, who portrays fictional president Josiah Bartlett on the TV series, attended North Carolina private fund-raisers Saturday in Charlotte and Richmond County for 8th District congressional candidate **Beth Troutman**.



Sheen

Troutman, a Democrat who worked for four years as assistant to the executive producer of "The West Wing," is trying to unseat Republican Rep. Robin Hayes.

Sheen made an appearance in Kannapolis, where thousands of jobs were lost last year when a textile plant shut down. He spoke with laid-off workers for 30 minutes.

"I'm supporting Beth's campaign for Congress," he said, standing across the street from the plant. "This is a clear indication of what is happening all over this country."

Sheen finished the day at a party at the Raleigh home of former Ambassador **Janet Hyde**.

Dylan recalls search for solitude

Bob Dylan, who is working on the second volume of his autobiography, says he went through a personal crisis in the late 1960s when his huge fame made it difficult to escape ravenous fans.

In an interview with *The Sunday Telegraph*, Dylan recalled moving to rural New York state in search of solitude, only to be followed on a moped by his fans.

"It all turned into a nightmare," he said.

Dylan said his fear that a crazed fan could attack him or his family led him to keep several guns in his house and stifled his creative process.

"In the early years everything had been like a magic carpet ride for me, and then all at once it was over," Dylan told the paper. "Here was this thing I'd wanted to do all my life, but suddenly I didn't feel I could do it anymore."

Asked whether he came close to a nervous breakdown, Dylan replied: "I guess I did."

Dylan spoke to the paper from his home in Minnesota, where he's working on the second volume of his autobiography. The first volume, "Chronicles: Volume One," goes on sale in Britain Oct. 12.

Drummer tumbles off stage

Shock rocker **Marilyn Manson's** drummer broke his wrist and suffered a slight concussion in a fall from the stage at an event in Germany, organizers said.

Drummer **Fish** was taken to a hospital in Cologne for treatment after the incident Friday night and was released Saturday, Viva television channel said in a statement.

Fish, whose real name is **Kenny Wilson**, fell off the stage as the band performed a cover version of Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus" at an award ceremony at the city's Koelnarena. Viva did not say what prompted the fall.

Pop music in shadow of Great Wall

Alicia Keys, **Nellie McKay** and **Cyndi Lauper** brought pop music to an ancient setting, performing for thousands of Chinese fans at the foot of the Great Wall.

Also on the bill of Saturday's concert was **Boyz II Men** and vocalist **Sylvia Tosun**.

Keys wore a leather jacket and a hat pulled low over her face as she performed eight songs on a stage beside one of the wall's immense gatehouses north of Beijing.

"Thank you for having me at the Great Wall," she said as fans cheered.

Organizers described the concert as the first by foreign musicians at the wall, although British disc jockey **Paul Oakenfold** performed there last year and later released an album of the show.

Some of the proceeds from Saturday's concert were to go to a Chinese children's charity, promoters said.

Despite the chilly autumn evening, Lauper performed part of her set barefoot. She descended from the stage and into the audience at one point, causing a brief flurry as Chinese police ordered spectators to move back.

Tosun was joined by a Chinese choir as she sang a traditional Chinese song, "Jasmine."

From The Associated Press



Rhythm and blues singer **Jill Scott** grew up in north Philadelphia. She is a proudly full-bodied woman, confident and strong with a voice to match. In the two years that she disappeared from public view, Scott got married, bought a house, painted it, started an educational foundation called *Blues Babes* and spent a lot of time listening to *Maz's* *Frankie Beverly* and the late *Minnie Riperton*. Scott just released her new album, "Beautifully Human: Words and Sounds Vol. 2."

Neo-soul singer Scott's still 'Golden' voice

BY TERESA WILTZ
The Washington Post

It's been four years since Jill Scott's first album, "Who Is Jill Scott? Words and Sounds Vol. 1" — a reasonable question for those outside Philadelphia who'd never heard of Jill from Philly.

She was, they discovered, a singer-songwriter who didn't need the marketing magic of MTV or a major label to win an audience. Her songs were all she needed. And then, after a seemingly endless run of singles spinning out from her Grammy-nominated debut CD, she was all but disappeared.

Now Scott is back with a resolute optimism, happily married and apparently eager to spread the joy in "Beautifully Human: Words and Sounds Vol. 2," an album that traffics in the prosaic power of everyday life: the sweet humor of a dysfunctional "Family Reunion," reveling in being able to get your "hair tight and ... nails right"; realizing that in affairs of the heart, what goes around comes around, and yes, women can do the backstabbing, too.

"Golden," the disc's first single, is an irresistibly happy affair, opening with expansive synthesizer that evokes a '70s vibe.

Instrumentally it's rather simple, bass and drums keeping steady pace with Scott's swooning vocals. Still, while the mood occasionally is evocative of times gone by, it avoids the derivative rut that so many neo-soul singers get stuck in. This song stays rooted in the present, an ecumenical gospel for those who like their spirituality served up with a rum-shaking groove: "I'll be high-steppin' y'all/ Letting the joy unfold ... I'm strumming my own freedom, playing the God in me ... Hope He's proud of me/ I'm living my life like it's Golden."

"Golden" is quintessential Scott: defiantly affirming the positive. It is this sense of joie de vivre, coupled with her powerful voice, that created so many fans with her first album and carried her through her second, live album, "Experience: Jill Scott + 826," and earned her a fervent following in live in sold-out concerts nationwide.

Indeed, Scott is the poster girl for mental health, a champion for brushing yourself off, dumping the losers and snuggling up in the arms of a strong, sexy and, of course, emotionally available man.

She's always married words to music. In "Cross My Mind," she indulges her poet's side, opening with spoken lyrics as she lets a former lover know that yes, she's thought of him once ... or twice. Sung choruses burst between the spoken stanzas, until her speech morphs into scat, the wistful reverie leading her off into musical tangents, much the way the mind whirls around and around on itself, tripping on the past. It's as if she can't help herself; the music is bubbling inside her, threatening to explode. Then she stops herself, returning to the surety of spoken word: "But the reality is/ You were never good for me and/ I was never good for you/ I just remember what we used to do."

Scott is a proudly full-bodied woman, confident and strong with a voice to match. It's a voice that's in fine form throughout "Beautifully Human," at once sweetly earthy and childlike in the dreamily yearning "The Fact Is (I Need You)" and then brassy earthy in the bluesy "Bedda at Home," where she lets a brother on the street know that while he's "intoxicating and so divine," she's looking but not touching because she's got a man who is, well, bedda.

In the two years that she disappeared from public view, Scott got married, bought a house, painted it, started an educational foundation called *Blues Babes*, and spent a lot of time listening to *Maz's* *Frankie Beverly* and the late *Minnie Riperton*. Their influences can be felt in the sweetness of her sounds, in her conscience-driven lyrics.

She's chosen to work with the same producers from her first CD — James Poyser, Andre Harris, Vidal Davis, *Mama's Boys* — while adding wunderkind Raphael Saadiq to the mix. Smart choice. Who knows — if she'd worked with the producing flavas of the minute, no doubt she'd end up, as her contemporary *Alice Stone* did, trying to increase her cool quotient in a duet with the likes of *Snoop Dogg*.

Instead, she sticks with what works for her: carefully constructed songs that don't have to the standard. When she experiments, she's more likely to play with musical genres than done gone by, like the big-band seasoning in "Talk to Me."

Still, there are some missteps, namely "Rasool," a pedantic, heavy-handed warning against youth-on-youth violence, and she does go a bit overboard with the self-affirmations of her goddess within.

Concerns rise as poker craze spreading to teens

BY MARY SHANKLIN
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — You could say that more teenage boys have started staying home and working on math skills: calculating percentages, identifying patterns, adding and subtracting.

But, to use a bad pun, let's call a spade a spade. They're playing poker — Texas Hold 'em.

"Oh, God, it's unbelievable," said Pat Fowler, director of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling. "It's probably the hottest craze with teenage and young males going on at this time. There's probably not another activity that they're interested in that's going on right now more than poker-tournament playing."

Since televised Texas Hold 'em tournaments have become the darling of ESPN, the Travel Channel and Bravo, the free-for-all brand of poker has spread like text messages through a high school.

"You see a lot more people playing it now," said Boone High School sophomore Russell LeBlanc, 16, who plays the card game mostly on Saturdays with friends and family. "Since it's been on ESPN, it's really picked up."

The popularity of poker among teens worries some adults.

Orange County, Fla., has become the first school district in that state to include anti-gambling lessons in its curriculum. The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling thinks all school systems in the state should warn students of the perils of wagering.

Neer Bone High's campus in downtown Orlando, LeBlanc said he has been playing cards for money since he was 11. He said it's obvious that some novices have a gambling problem because he has seen them lose \$1,000 at a sitting. LeBlanc said he has lost as much as \$150, but he has also won \$500.

While some worry about the dangers of kids hunting royal flushes, others say odds are slim that the young players will become addicted.

At USA Darts and Cigars in Orlando, which sells clay-chip poker sets, owner Joe Celenza Sr. said he hasn't seen many card-crazed teens come to his shop. While gambling can be addictive, Celenza said today's youths are not at a great risk.

"How much money can a kid have?" he said. "They don't have any money. They're going to lose what they have in their pockets and go home."

Abike, 30 ballparks and a worthy cause

BY MARTIN FINUCANE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The digital speedometer on Charlie Hamilton's bicycle handbars told the story. Miles traveled: 11,741. Speed: 0.0.

Hamilton dismounted from his bike on Sunday at Fenway Park after a 25-week odyssey across North America in which he traveled to games at each of the 30 major league ballparks, raising

money to fight cancer along the way.

"It was a cockamamie scheme I came up with. Once I thought about it, I didn't stop thinking about it," said Hamilton, 40, a tall, thin, mid-mannered software engineer from Provincetown.

Hamilton raised \$13,000 for cancer research and treatment from the trip, but still hoped to raise more.

He began his journey April 2 in Atlanta and ended it with a final ride to the Red Sox regular-season home game at Fenway Park, where his efforts were to be recognized in a pre-game ceremony.

He averaged 80 miles a day on the trip, sometimes camping, sometimes staying in cheap motels, sometimes staying with friends and family. He suffered 50 flat tires, was chased by dogs, rode through driving rain, went through eight pairs of sunglasses and had many a brush with an aggressive anti-biker driver.

One time, going 30 miles per hour down a hill, he came inches from a serious accident, veering at the last second away from a hole in the road.

Hamilton said he was just a software guy who sat in a cubicle and typed for 10 hours a day until he quit that job for his adventure.

"I have always gone to work every day and all that kind of stuff. This is a mid-life crisis," he said.

"Some people say you're crazy, but most people don't," he said. "Most people are really pretty supportive."

His favorite ballpark of them all? Fenway Park, of course, said the Red Sox fan, but Chicago's Wrigley Field got a second-place vote.

Hamilton rode in honor of Eric Donovan, 15, of Scituate, Mass., who is undergoing treatment for Ewing's Sarcoma. They were matched by the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge, a bike-a-ton that raises money for the Jimmy Fund, which pays for cancer research and treatment at Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



Eleven-year-old Jimmy Haywood, front left, and 14-year-old Kenny Roy, center, are welcomed home Saturday after Roy became the youngest black pilot licensed to fly solo Friday, and Haywood became the youngest black male to pilot a plane on a round-trip international flight.

Young black pilots make history on flight to Canada

BY CHRIS T. NGUYEN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When Jimmy Haywood and Kenny Roy flew from California to Canada and back, they saw livestock, lakes, a snowcapped mountain — and set a couple of world records.

Jimmy, at age 11, became the youngest black pilot to make an international flight, and 14-year-old Kenny passed Canada's flight test to become the world's youngest black pilot licensed to fly solo.

Their three-day adventure ended Saturday where it began, at the Compton/Woodley Airport, with a homecoming attended by family, friends and even the legendary Tuskegee Airmen.

Jimmy was unabashed about his accomplishment, piloting a Cessna 172 for 10 hours each way between Southern California and Vancouver, British Columbia. A certified flight instructor acted as the boys' chaperone but did not fly.

"I was making history," he said in a telephone interview from the airport.

Kenny was more restrained about his feat, executing stalls, spins and spiral dives to get his li-

cence to fly solo. He took the test in Vancouver because Canada allows pilots to be licensed at 14; the age is 16 in the United States.

"It's exciting," he said. "It helps other kids, too, because they're following me. I set an example for them."

After he passed his test, Kenny got a wet welcome on the ground when airmen doused him with a bucket of water. "I guess that's the tradition there," publicist Cynthia Macon said.

The boys got their training in the youth aviation program at the Compton-based Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum, where they volunteered to work in exchange for instruction.

Before flying to Vancouver, Jimmy had 20 hours of flight time and Kenny had 50.

The world records are something the boys can be proud of, for example, said Oscar V. Wright, president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen organization.

"Even if they don't want to fly later in life, it shows you can do something," said York, who welcomed Kenny and Jimmy home. "And they're on their way to a good career, because they have heads that are already turned to the future."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.258
British pound	\$1.85
Japanese yen (Sep. 29)	108.00
South Korean won (Sep. 25)	1,119.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.864
Denmark (Krone)	0.136
Egypt (Pound)	0.14
France (Euro)	\$1.2268
Germany (Euro)	\$1.2268
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.792
Hungary (Forint)	20.28
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,694
Israel (Shekel)	4.853
Japan (Yen)	110.68
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2946
Norway (Krone)	0.136
Philippines (Peso)	56.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.3740
Singapore (Dollar)	1.694
South Korea (Won)	1,119.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.19
Thailand (Baht)	47.55
Turkey (Lira)	1,495,200.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars to one pound, and the euro, which is dollars to euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$492.30
Silver	\$6.50

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	2.75
3-month bill	1.72
3-month bond	4.80

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Web sites for home loans

Knight Ridder Tribune

Even with recent interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve, home mortgage rates still remain relatively low.

Several Web sites provide insights about qualifying for a home loan and borrowing for a mortgage. Here are a few informative Web locales:

- www.bankrate.com/bm/news/real-estate/tips-new-home1.asp. Offers a variety of mortgage cost-saving tips.
- www.free-mortgage.com

gag-tips.com/Getting-Best-Rate.html. Features a "best-rate" basic Web links to other mortgage subjects.

■ www.home-mortgage-calculator.net/how-much-should-i-borrow.asp. Provides insights on how much to borrow for a mortgage.

■ www.mortgageinfo-center.com/tips/default.asp. Offers tips, dozens of mortgage borrowing tips over five pages.

■ realtytimes.com/rtcpag.aspx?advicetoborrowers.htm. Covers a range of mortgage borrowing topics.

Motorcyclists buzzing over 205 mph speeding ticket

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — People across the country are shaking their heads over the kid ticketed for allegedly riding his motorcycle at 205 mph — some out of disapproval, other because they doubt he went that fast.

Ever since a State Patrol pilot clocked Samuel Armstrong Tilley's 2002 Honda RC51 going a quarter-mile in 4.39 seconds on Sept. 18, people in chartrooms, garages and biker bars from Sturgis, S.D., to Los Angeles have been buzzing about the alleged feat on Highway 61 near Wabasha.

Certainly anyone who floats the law to that extent is seen by some as a latter-day Robin Hood, flying in the face of authority and

doing stuff we all want to do but common sense stops us from.

David Edwards, editor-in-chief of Cycle World, a magazine based in Newport Beach, Calif.

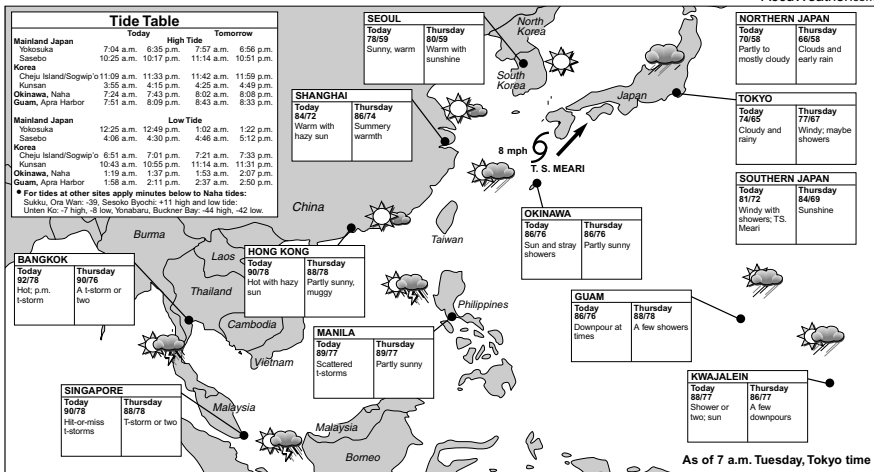
Edwards is among the many experts who doubt Tilley's bike could have gone so fast. "More likely, the cop with the stopwatch had an itchy trigger finger," he told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis.

"There are lots of guys who have been spending a lot of money and a lot of years at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah trying to join the official 200 Club and most still haven't done it," Edwards said. He told the Star Tribune he would need an add-on turbo charger to go above 165 mph.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004

AccuWeather.com

The Pacific Forecast



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 80, low 71.
 Saturday: Rain, high 80, low 69.

KADENA

Friday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 76.
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 74.

SEOUL

Friday: Partly sunny, high 76, low 48.
 Saturday: Mostly sunny, high 61, low 42.

MANILA

Friday: Showers, high 87, low 77.
 Saturday: Showers, high 78, low 75.

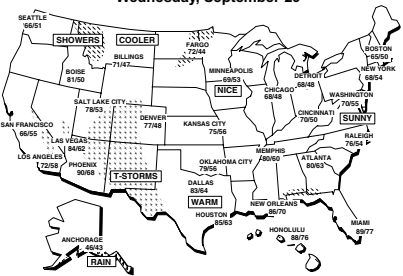
HAGATNA

Friday: Showers, high 90, low 78.
 Saturday: Showers, high 88, low 78.

Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	74/52	Los Angeles	80/60
Amarillo	71/55	Little Rock	85/58
Anchorage	40/33	Louisville	81/62
Asheville	70/60	Miami	90/75
Baltimore	76/64	Milwaukee	75/53
Birmingham	86/65	Nashville	82/61
Bismarck	65/37	New York	77/64
Boise	84/66	Omaha	78/51
Boston	75/60	Orlando	90/74
Brownsville	89/72	Philadelphia	79/66
Buffalo	77/54	Phoenix	100/76
Burlington	77/58	Pittsburgh	75/58
Charlotte, SC	85/71	Portland, OR	79/57
Charlotte	74/66	Portland, ME	72/55
Cleveland	75/58	Salt Lake City	94/57
Columbus, OH	78/60	St. Louis	80/58
Duluth	65/38	San Antonio	86/67
El Paso	75/58	San Diego	75/64
Evansville	77/58	San Juan	90/76
Helena	69/42	Tampa	85/58
Indianapolis	77/57	Tulsa	84/76
Jacksonville	89/73	Washington	77/66
Kansas City	82/57	Wichita	87/59

Wednesday, September 29



U.S. Extended Forecast

The remnants of Jeanne will move away from the East Coast Wednesday and clouds will break for sunshine in the large cities along the coast. High pressure will provide abundant sunshine for the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley. The Southeast will have generally dry weather with some sunshine. Meanwhile, thunderstorms will pop up over parts of the Rockies and Southwest, mainly during the afternoon hours. The West Coast will have more dry weather. On Thursday and Friday, a strong cold front will dive into the northern Rockies and Plains. Temperatures will be 15-20 degrees cooler behind the front. Showers and thunderstorms will continue to wet some locations across the Rockies.

Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/78	Sasebo NB	79/72
Beijing	75/55	Sapporo	70/58
Camp Casey	78/55	Seoul	78/59
Christchurch	53/39	Shanghai	84/72
Diego Garcia	83/75	Singapore	90/78
Hagatna	86/76	Sydney	83/55
Hanoi	88/76	Taeju	80/60
Hong Kong	90/78	Taipei	87/71
Honolulu	88/76	Tokyo	74/65

Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/74	Budapest	62/45
Athens	77/61	Buenos Aires	66/50
Auckland	55/44	Cairo	105/76
Baghdad	107/75	Cancun	84/72
Barbados	91/74	Cape Town	79/61
Barcelona	72/61	Geneva	64/53
Berlin	59/45	Istanbul	80/62
Bermuda	86/74	Jerusalem	99/75
Brussels	65/46	Johnsborough	77/51
		Moscow	
		New Delhi	81/52
		Oslo	55/39
		Paris	70/52
		Rio de Janeiro	84/63
		Rome	75/55
		St. Petersburg	55/41
		Stockholm	55/41
		Warsaw	61/45



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Horoscope

During yesterday's full moon, our communication planet, Mercury, entered the realm of Libra. This transit, which lasts until Oct. 15, brings intellectual energy to the decision-making process. We're smart enough and mature enough to look at our problems as others might see them, able to argue their points as well as our own.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 29). You feel acknowledged and accepted this year, and it's a terrific feeling that gives you the confidence to raise the stakes in every area. You've got your own funny way of expressing yourself through October, and new friends totally get you. Singles date heavily through the holiday season. Couples make more of an effort to create special moments.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Don't let up now — you're almost over the hump. Though you get going, your super-productive afternoon should help you see things through to completion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

If you've been feeling sluggish, you're almost over the hump. Though you get going, your super-productive afternoon should help you see things through to completion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Your brain and your mouth are running a million miles a minute. If it helps you with multitasking, more power to you. If not, you can put a lid on it by sweating it out in exercise, sauna or even creative way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Feeling a little restless? Moon-ruled crabs enjoy change and even thrive on it. So if being a homebody and screening all your calls isn't doing it for you, make it a time to shed your shell of shyness and face the world again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

When your love life is kicking, you feel invincible. And when it's not, you feel compelled to heal that area of your life. Practice being balanced. Center

your sense of self-worth on yourself instead of on how your love life is doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're operating on a highly creative and productive level, and you'll soon see results. Diet and exercise must

be examined with care, as health is an important piece of the "new you." An idea of huge proportions comes to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're filled with optimism. Just remember: It's more important to have peace of mind than to have happiness. With peace of mind, you can weather any storm. Spend time with a loved one who needs a shot in the arm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Your slogan of the day is "Let freedom ring!" You should be able to feel the excitement build even in your most mundane activities. There's just a glimmer of something new to give everything a different perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Relax. This prevents you from wasting your time and energy going down the wrong path. No matter how strong your opinions, you profit by extending compassion. Love has highs and lows, but don't dwell on either.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Everything you do makes good sense. You'll receive an enthusiastic response to the project you've been working on. Don't let that stop you from doing what you need to do to improve your work and keep moving forward.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your main opponent is boredom. Though work may be tedious, finding ways to amuse yourself should not be too difficult. Just don't let the boss catch you surfing the Internet or text-messaging your friends on company time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Friends embark on unusual adventures. If you pursue a conversation, you'll get an earful, and it's wildly entertaining. This will inspire you to take a road less traveled yourself. In general, you are able to do your own thing.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jojo's Bizarre Adventure



Zits



Cathy



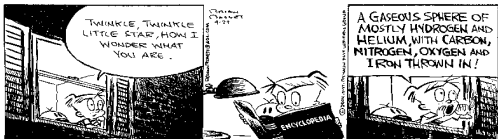
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



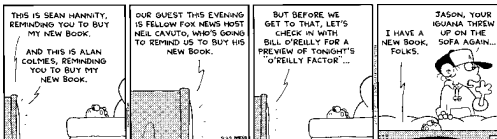
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



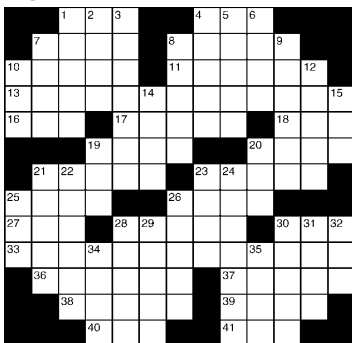
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Gymnast's milieu

4 Sound

6 Sound

7 One who's gonna get it?

8 Kentucky Derby

10 Blue material?

11 Top, eBay-style

13 Dirt-removal tool

15 Texas Hold 'Em,

18 Howl at the moon

19 Say it isn't so

20 Evans or

21 Smug smile

23 Gratings

25 Read bar codes

26 Couturier Cassini

27 Circle section

28 Beauty parlor

30 Venusian vessel?

33 Dirt-removal tool

36 Esprit de corps

37 Haste result

38 Pitcher Ryan

39 On the briny

40 Pompous sort

41 Say it's OK

Down

1 Lenient treatment

2 Japanese indigene

3 "The show must go on" proponent

4 Energy unit

5 Michaelmas daisy

6 Singer McEntire

7 Frost

8 Stallone role

9 Legendary

10 Beetle Bailey's rank (Abbr.)

12 Transactions

14 Tony Shalhoub series

15 Sallinger end

19 Cacophony

20 Groove on

21 Skeddadle

22 Mark over a long vowel

23 Radiate

24 Subscription extension

25 Pouch

26 Mary-Kate or Ashley

28 Easter stickers

29 Hold-up man?

30 Unexpected victory

31 Greek cheese

32 Raw rock

34 Malay canoe

35 Facility

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-29

CRYPTOQUIP

ETIBWS J ZIIUT NTJN
SCURSC NI ACUIHC J
B.E. ZYCERSCMN AC

MJHCS YIPCY UWCPCWJMS?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW SONDHEN
MUSICAL ABOUT A BULLYING BRITISH
CONSERVATIVE GANG: "WEST SIDE STORY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

'Call Police' banners a lifesaver

Dear Abby: Every once in a while, you print ordering information for "Please Call Police" banners. I would like to purchase some to use as stocking stuffers this Christmas for my daughters and nieces, and also one for myself. I am single, disabled, and occasionally drive on the highways.

Once I found myself stuck in the middle of nowhere. When I tried using my cell phone to summon help, I learned I was in a "no reception" area. It's tough being a woman alone these days. Having the banners in my glove compartment will give me peace of mind. Thanks, Abby.

—Gerri in Butte, Mont.

Dear Gerri: I'm pleased to reprint the information.

The "Please Call Police" banners have proven time and again to be a genuine lifesaver in an emergency. Your orders will not only provide a safety measure for you and the people you love, but

they'll also assist WCIL in providing much needed services for individuals with disabilities. (I keep two banners in my glove compartment — one for the windshield and one for the rear window.) The banners can be ordered by writing to the West-

side Center for Independent Living, a nonprofit organization that helps people with disabilities to live more independent lives. You will receive one banner for a \$5 contribution, and another banner for each additional \$4 contribution. (Please include \$1 per order for postage and handling.) To order, send a check or money order (U.S. funds only, please) to: WCIL Banners, P.O. Box 92501, Los Angeles, CA 90099. Allow four to eight weeks for delivery.

For more information, visit the WCIL Web site at www.WCIL.org and click on the "Safety Banner" link.

Dear Abby



Couple should find common ground

Dear Annie: My husband, "Lenny," was laid off from his job nearly three years ago. He decided to return to school, but he attends classes in another city. I will be living with some friends while he is in school for the next two years, and we'll see each other every other weekend.

Lenny and I will celebrate our third anniversary this year, and sometimes I'm not sure I want to be married anymore. I'm having a hard time coping with his absence. I have started to find other men attractive and did something I never thought I'd do: I made a pass at a friend. I always have been faithful, yet this one time I came so close to throwing everything away. I have no intention of telling Lenny, because it only would cause him pain that he doesn't deserve.

This is not what I signed on for when we married. How long do I



Annie's Mailbox

have to wait before I call it quits?

—Washington Wife

Dear Wife: Why are you so willing to give up? Two years may seem like an eternity, but it isn't really that long. If you are committed to Lenny, and you see him every other weekend, you should not find this arrangement so impossible.

Can you find a job where Lenny is attending school and perhaps live in student housing to save money? Is there a town midway between your current place and Lenny's school where you both could live together and commute? Explore these options and see if they can work. Of course, if you don't WANT to be married anymore, that's a different story, and one that Lenny deserves to know about in advance.

Dear Annie: My friend, "Jake," has lived with me on and off for the last 16 years. I love

Dear Abby: My ex, "Arnold," and I broke up two years ago, after he bit part of my ear off during an argument. That was the last straw.

I moved away and am using a mailing service, but Arnold won't stop harassing me. He had a stamp made with my name and mailing address on it, and he is sending me thousands of subscriptions. It has cost me more than \$6,000 so far and the police are involved.

How should I handle this? Worried in Van Nuys, Calif.
Dear Worried: First of all, stop paying for subscriptions you didn't order. Call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (the number in your area is listed in your telephone directory) and speak to a fraud agent. The Postal Inspection Service is the law enforcement branch of the U.S. Postal Service, and what your ex is doing could be considered fraud.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

him like a brother, and my kids call him Uncle Jake.

In the last two years, Jake has become less of a friend and more of a burden. He has no job, pays no bills and doesn't offer to help around the house. All he does is eat, sleep and play on our computer.

He has two kids and recently stopped contact with them.

I cannot understand how any parent won't fight to see his children and why Jake will not take responsibility for what he has helped create.

If I kick him out, he will move in with his mother. This would solve my problem, but not his. Any ideas?

—Illinois Friend
Dear Friend: You are not responsible for Jake's immaturity, but you certainly are enabling him to continue freeloading. It's time to cut the cord.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Los Angeles column. Please e-mail your questions to annies_mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOSOW

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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PYKER

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TEPICS

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

CALKAJ

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

www.jumble.com

Answer: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRAND JADED BANANA SURTAX

Answer: The musicians didn't use the rickety platform because it was — A "BANNED" STAND

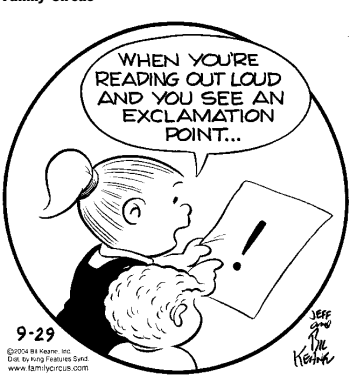
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ (Answers tomorrow)

Family Circus



“...It means you should've yelled the words that came before it.”

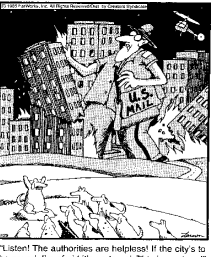
GRAFFITI



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson



Non Sequitur



Drunk riders allowed

PA PITTSBURGH — The state Supreme Court ruled that Pennsylvania's drunken driving law can't be enforced against people on horseback, a decision that inspired the dissenting justice to wax poetic.

The court ruled in a case against two men in Mevler County in Jan. 2002. Riders Keith Travis, 41, and Richard Noel, 49, were charged with drunken driving along with a man driving a pickup who allegedly rear-ended the horse Travis was riding away from a bar on a dark country road.

All three men failed field sobriety tests, police said, but a judge threw out the charges against Noel and Travis after they argued that the word "vehicles" in the state's drunken-driving law doesn't apply to horses.

Justice Michael Eakin, who is fond of writing rhyming opinions, summed up the lone dissent with two stanzas mimicking the theme song of "Mister Ed" — a 1960s TV sitcom about a talking horse: "A horse is a horse, of course, of course, but the Vehicle Code does not divorce its application from, perforce, a steed as my colleagues said."

"It's not vague," I'll say until I'm hoarse, and whether a car, a truck or horse this law applies with equal force, and I'd reverse instead."

Billy the Kid investigation

NM FORT SUMNER — Three New Mexico officials looking for answers about the death of Western legend Billy the Kid have dropped their request to exhumate what are believed to be the outlaw's remains.

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan, joined by deputy and Captain Mayor Steve Serwall and De Baca County Sheriff Gary Graves, launched an investigation last year into the outlaw's escape in early 1881 and Sheriff Pat Garrett's slaying of the Kid later that year.

The investigation aims to clear up persistent questions about the fate of William Bonney, known in Western lore as Billy the Kid.

Competing histories suppose Garrett killed the wrong man and lied about it — and that the outlaw isn't buried in a cemetery here.

One story has the Kid slipping away and winding up in Texas, where he was known as "Brushy Bill" Roberts and died of a heart attack at age 90.

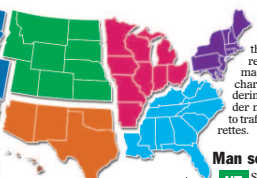
Newspaper ban eased

MI FLINT — Mayor Don Williams said he will allow newspapers in City Hall — a slight loosening of his ban on city employees reading anything at work that's not related to their jobs.

The announcement came after police temporarily detained a newspaper carrier for trying to deliver subscriptions to City Hall.

Williams issued an executive order in July that prohibits city workers from reading or having non-work-related reading material on city property during their work hours.

The mayor's office said the city will allow "delivery of newspapers by authorized persons" for use during breaks and lunch.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

No 'Choose Life' plates

TN NASHVILLE — A federal judge ruled that the state's "Choose Life" license plate is unconstitutional based on the reasoning in similar cases in other states, but he declined to rule on whether Tennessee's entire specialty plate program is flawed.

U.S. District Judge Todd Campbell wrote that the state cannot promote just one viewpoint in the abortion debate.

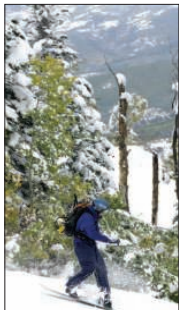
"The result in this case would be the same if the statute authorized a 'Pro-Choice' license plate instead of the 'Choose Life' license plate," Campbell wrote.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood challenged the plate in November, arguing that the state was not providing an equal opportunity for opposing viewpoints.

Contraband cigarettes

WA YAKIMA — Five people have been charged with felonies following an 18-month investigation into sales of untaxed cigarettes and raids on a number of Indian smoke shops.

Authorities said it apparently was the first time the Justice Department has brought criminal charges, at least in the Pacific Northwest, over contraband cigarettes intended for sale to non-Indians.



First tracks

Enjoying more than a foot of snow from a storm that recently passed through the Yampa Valley, Marco X of Steamboat Springs, Colo., makes first tracks down the Steamboat Ski Area.

In a 238-count indictment issued by a federal grand jury, the three north Idaho residents and two Tacoma-area men were charged with money laundering, conspiracy to launder money and conspiracy to traffic in contraband cigarettes.

Man sentenced

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A man convicted of shaking a baby who died after 12 years in a vegetative state was sentenced to between five years and life in prison.

Warren Clifford Hales, who shook then-5-month-old Luther Deem in 1985, had said the boy was accidentally injured after Hales slammed on his brakes to avoid another car and the baby hit the dashboard.

But prosecutors said Hales shook the boy hard enough to leave him blind, mute and unable to learn or care for himself.

The boy lingered in a persistent vegetative state for 12 years before dying in 1997.

Teen falls to his death

ME CLIFTON — A teenager fell 150 feet to his death while camping with friends near a cliff, officials said.

Josh McKay, 16, of Glenburn, lost his footing and tumbled off Park Pond Bill while trying to extinguish a small fire started by a firecracker, said Wes Linscott, of the Maine State Police in Orono.

The teenager's body was recovered.

McKay was part of a group that was camping on Parks Pond Bill in Penobscot County when someone tossed a firecracker over a drop-off near the camp site, Linscott said.

McKay and two others were trying to put out the fire when McKay got too close to the edge and fell, he said.

Endangered bird plan

HI HONOLULU — Mongooses, cats and rats still threaten the endangered state bird, but federal wildlife officials announced a comprehensive recovery plan aimed at taking the nene off endangered and threatened species lists.

Establishing a stable Hawaiian goose population would no need for federal protection, however, would take a minimum of 30 years under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rules.

From just 30 birds in 1952, the number of nene has grown to an estimated 1,300 today, nearly all on Kauai, Hawaii, Maui and Molokai. The nene is found only in Hawaii.

Art thief gets 2 years

FL MIAMI — A man pleaded guilty to being part of a conspiracy that stole paintings by Monet and Renoir from a Naples mansion last year and was sentenced to two years in prison.

Carlos Somoano, 38, pleaded guilty in state court to grand theft for stealing the French impressionist paintings worth \$6.7 million. The sentence will run simultaneously with a 10-year federal sentence on an unrelated drug charge. He had faced up to 30 years for the theft.

Somoano didn't take part in the theft, but tried to arrange the sale of the paintings for \$1 million to two men who turned out to be undercover police officers.



Dirty landing spot
Landfill in Daytona Beach, Fla.

A bald eagle rests on piles of debris and garbage at the Volusia County



A fishy scare Maliah Baguran, 8, second from right, laughs as Tristin Lewis, 8, cringes near a coho salmon being shown at Campbell Creek in Anchorage, Alaska.



Momma Mia!

Candace Combs, from left, Pat Turpin and Teressa Hundley work on preparing a pepperoni and sausage pizza at the Casey County Apple Festival in Liberty, Ky.



Experiencing the force Radio station contest winner Jacinda Sumara, of Birmingham, Mich., takes a flight and experiences zero gravity through G-Force One, a specially modified Boeing 727-200 out of Detroit Metropolitan Airport.



A close catch Federal Reserve Bank employee Steve Lowe, right, makes a fingertip catch in front of football employee Marc Hare during lunch as they played a game of touch football in Kansas City, Mo.



Green giant A green elephant stands guard over the Green Animals topiary garden as greenery sculpted into giraffe can be seen in the background in Portsmouth, R.I.



A colossal view A rainbow casts an arch over the brontosaurus on top of Dinosaur Park in Rapid City, S.D., during a late afternoon shower.

Fed bust drug ring

VA HARRISONBURG — Federal and local law enforcement officials declared an end to a seven-year operation that sent 90 drug criminals to prison and kept hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine out of the region.

John Brownlee, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, called Operations "High Roller (1&2)" a significant victory in the fight against drugs.

Among those in prison as a result of the operation is Donald Wayne Long of Harrisonburg, who authorities said was responsible for procuring methamphetamine, a cheap, highly addictive and potent drug for users in the Shenandoah Valley.

Authorities say Thompson distributed 300 pounds of meth, 30 pounds of cocaine and several hundred pounds of marijuana.

In all, the investigation led to 40 federal and 50 state convictions.

Judge strikes bootleg ban

NY NEW YORK — A federal judge struck down a 1994 law banning the sale of bootleg recordings of live music, ruling the law unfairly grants "seemingly perpetual protection" to the original performers.

U.S. District Judge Harold Baer Jr. dismissed a federal indictment of Jean Martignon, who runs a Manhattan mail-order and Internet business that sells bootleg recordings.

Baer found the bootleg law was written by Congress in the spirit of federal copyright law, which protects writing for a fixed period of time — typically for the life of the author and 70 years after the author's death.

But the judge said the bootleg law, which was passed "primarily to cloak artists with copyright protection," could not stand because it places no time limit on the ban.

Man poses as doctor

TX HOUSTON — A man wearing hospital scrubs and a white lab coat sexually assaulted three women patients at a Houston hospital, officials said.

The man, dressed as a medical professional in lab scrubs and a carrying a stethoscope, performed pelvic examinations on three women in their rooms after asking them several questions, said Detective Keith McMurtry, of the Houston Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit.

Police said it took the patients time to realize what had happened and alert authorities.

The victims, ranging in age from the late teens to the early 30s, told police the man's demeanor was professional and calm. He twice carried a doctor's chart or a piece of paper, McMurtry said.

'Sacred' buffalo dies

WI JANESVILLE — A buffalo considered sacred by some American Indians because it was born white has died of natural causes at the age of 10, its owner said.

The animal, named Miracle, drew as many as 2,000 visitors a day in the year after his birth in 1994.

Although its hide became darker as it aged, some associated Miracle with the white buffalo of American Indian prophecies.

According to lore, such an animal will reunite all the races of man and restore balance to the world.

Flip-flops take over

CA ANVILLE — Charlotte Wood Middle School is awash in flip-flops. Hundreds and hundreds of flip-flops.

Since word got out that students were collecting the California wardrobe staple for barefoot Iraqi children walking on hot sand, the campus has been hit by a tidal wave of sandals.

A trendy flip-flop maker whose footwear has appeared on "Oprah" and "Sex and the City" has pledged 1,000 pairs worth \$25,000. Another donor dropped off a box of 100. One man walked into the school and peeled off nine \$100 bills to help with shipping costs. And Wells Fargo wrote a check for \$10,000 to send all those shoes halfway around the world.

The shoes keep coming, but the school doesn't mind.

Man shoots bear

AK ANCHORAGE — Gary Boyd was walking his boxer puppy along a popular hiking trail when he heard something big crashing through the brush behind him.

"I thought it was a moose, but then I saw it was too low for a moose," said Boyd, a former Army helicopter pilot and retired maintenance chief. "I just had time to pull my pistol and spin around."

A massive male brown bear erupted from the forest less than 20 feet away, claws tearing up hard-packed earth as it charged toward the 57-year-old.

"I fired the first shot, and I aimed at its shoulders," Boyd said. "When the first shot didn't faze it, I fired the second time, and it turned into the ditch, and I shot three more times, and it went down."

Zen priest ordained

VT SHELburne — The Vermont Zen Center ordained its first priest in their first Buddhist ordination in the state.

Holly Callery, a 64-year-old Charlotte resident, was one of two priests at the center. Sensei Sudanya Graef was ordained in New York before moving to Vermont.

As a priest, Callery will no longer wear makeup or jewelry, will wear solid black or blue clothing and will keep her hair short.

During the ceremony, she had her head shaved, and she changed her name.

Inmates to pay for care

AR BENTON — Starting next year, state prison inmates are going to have to pay \$3 each time they request medical care.

The fee, approved with a 4-3 vote by the state Corrections Board, is intended to discourage frivolous medical complaints that take time and resources from inmates with legitimate health problems.

In a typical month, about 14,000 inmate sick calls are made.

Many inmates and their families said the fee will probably end up being paid by families because Arkansas does not pay its inmates for job assignments.

Stories and photos from wire services.

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Make deployments equal

I am a National Guard soldier and have been in Iraq for eight months. Our unit's redeployment date is still not the end of the war, which will put us in country for 13 months. I've seen active-duty units leave after seven months. Why do the part-time soldiers have to fulfill the entire tour while the active-duty components serve half that time in Iraq?

What the Army fails to realize is our compo-
nion for is that as part-time sol-
diers we have other jobs to go home to
and fight for the same purpose we had
in Iraq in years of similar service.

The laws regulating soldier re-deployment rights guarantees a job, but does not account for promotion opportunities that pass us by or those whose education has been put on hold indefinitely. During my deployment I have missed two oppor-
tunities that would have resulted in pro-
motions and/or higher wages, all this
while members of the active component
continue to receive their promotions be-
cause after all, this is their career.

I don't want to sound like I'm complain-
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rate right to classify them as undesirable credit customers because of that military affiliation and their APO/FPO address.

We have senators and representatives and it would be a good thing to let them know that the corporate power structure is skewed and that it is unacceptable.

Joan Schwarz
Garmisch, Germany

U.S. will survive elections

I recall 1968, when my father supported Richard Nixon while my mom backed Hubert Humphrey. Despite heated emotions, our family survived that presidential election and its results.

Regardless of this election's outcome, our country will survive and prosper. In four years there will be another election that the losers can focus on, while the winners must deal with the responsibility of representing all Americans. Their decisions, good or bad, will become part of our history.

Most historians feel that Americans have been skillful at electing the right person for the job. Alternately, some feel the elected individuals have risen to the challenges they faced. In either case, we have a legacy of 215 years of achievement in the presidential office.

All citizens should realize that to achieve what others don't share their view, it doesn't make them any less an American. Voting for Jimmy Carter in 1976 or Ralph Nader in 2000 doesn't make me less a patriot than anyone who voted otherwise.

I grew up reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to a school, and hold those truths self-evident. My heart echoes hearing taps over a soldier's grave; I feel pride listening to "America the Beautiful"; homesick touches me in a battered land half a world away.

As Americans, we have the right to support our country, and the responsibility to

participate by voting. Many would argue our system is made great by melding diverse viewpoints under common ideologies. We shouldn't sacrifice that by getting swept up in emotions and intolerance.

America will grow stronger if we build on our success by merging different ideologies toward similar goals. We won't get there through partisan finger-pointing. In this manner it is up to us to decide.

Mike Williams
Camp Victory, Iraq

Helping Iraqi wrestlers

I would like to inform Stars and Stripes readers of an international program that was recently developed between the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sport and a local American youth wrestling club. Both youth-oriented organizations have developed an official partnership to benefit the Iraqi youth.

I am an American contractor working in Iraq, and an avid youth wrestling volunteer and supporter back in Ohio. I decided to organize a youth wrestling program that would help the youth succeed as future Iraqi athletes. I discussed the idea with my local youth wrestling club, and the staff gave me its full support and also agreed to actually conduct the program with other nationally known wrestling coaches.

After receiving the approval of the senior adviser of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, we started to discuss the difficulties associated with the travel funding. Accommodations involving room and board, equipment and incidentals are being sponsored by local individuals, businesses and sponsors all located in the area of the club.

One of the primary reasons for writing this letter is to generate additional interest, logistical support and/or sponsorship. Some of the pertinent details involving the program are as follows:

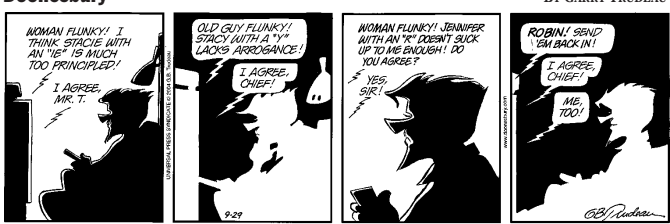
The local Iraqi wrestling federation here in Baghdad will select 30 wrestlers between the ages of 13 and 16 to travel to the United States to participate in a 10-day wrestling program. Included in the program is a four-day wrestling camp coupled with motivational speakers who are or have been known for their commitment and dedication to the sport of wrestling. Instruction will focus on all three wrestling styles: folkstyle, freestyle and Greco-Roman. The Iraqi youth will then spend three days attending and watching some of the best Midwest high school wrestling sectional championships and, during one of the tournaments, the Iraqis will help run the event.

The financial goal is to raise enough funding to cover the travel cost for all the wrestlers. If you are interested in supporting the program as an individual sponsor, corporate donor, or just to pass on some additional ideas please contact me at this e-mail address: jcmeyers4443@aol.com.

John C. Meyers
U.S. Embassy
Baghdad

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



©B. Trudeau

OPINION

Despite attacks, Iraq learning to help itself

By LT. GEN. DAVID H. PETRAEUS

Helping organize, train and equip nearly a quarter-million of Iraq's security forces is a daunting task. Doing so in the middle of a tough insurgency increases the challenge enormously, making the mission akin to repairing an aircraft while in flight and while being shot at. Now, however, 18 months after entering Iraq, I see tangible progress. Iraqi security elements are being rebuilt from the ground up.

The institutions that oversee them are being re-established from the top down. And Iraqi leaders are stepping forward, leading their country and their security forces courageously in the face of an enemy that has shown a willingness to do anything to disrupt the establishment of the new Iraq.

In recent months, I have observed thousands of Iraqis in training and then watched as they have conducted numerous operations. Although there have been reverses — not to mention horrific terrorist attacks — there has been progress in the effort to enable Iraqis to shoulder more of the load for their own security, something they are keen to do.

The future undoubtedly will be full of difficulties, especially in places such as Fallujah. We must expect setbacks and recognize that not every soldier or policeman we help train will be equal to the challenges ahead.

Nonetheless, there are reasons for optimism. Today approximately 164,000 Iraqi police and soldiers (of which about 100,000 are trained and equipped) and an additional 74,000 facility protection forces are performing a wide variety of security missions. Equipment is being delivered. Training is on track and increasing in capacity. Infrastructure is being repaired. Command and control structures and institutions are being re-established.

Most important, Iraqi security forces are in the fight — so much so that they are suffering substantial casualties as they take on more and more of the burdens to ensure security in their country. Since Jan. 1 more than 700 Iraqi security force members have been killed, and hundreds of Iraqis seeking to volunteer for the police and military have been killed as well.

Six battalions of the Iraqi regular army and the Iraqi Intervention Force are now conducting operations. Two of these battalions, along with the Iraqi commando battalion, the counterterrorism force, two Iraqi National Guard battalions and thousands of policemen recently contributed to successful operations in Najaf. Their readiness to enter and clear the Imam Ali shrine was undoubtedly a key factor in enabling Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani to persuade members of the Mahdi militia to lay down their arms and leave the shrine.

In another highly successful operation several days ago, the Iraqi counterterrorism force conducted early-morning raids in Najaf that resulted in the capture of several senior lieutenants and 40 other members of that militia, and the seizure of enough weapons to fill nearly four 7½-ton dump trucks.

Within the next 60 days, six more regular-army and six additional Intervention Force battalions will become operational. Nine more regular-army battalions will complete training in January, in time to help with security missions during the Iraqi elections at the end of that month.

Iraqi National Guard battalions also have been active in recent months. Some



Above: New Iraqi border guards hold up their certificates as they chant pro-Iraqi slogans Monday during a graduation ceremony at the Jordanian International Police Training Center in Musayyir, Jordan. The first batch of 458 Iraqis concluded training Monday. **Below:** Also Monday, an Iraqi soldier looks at the remains of a colleague after a car bomb exploded as a seven-vehicle Iraqi National Guard patrol was passing by, in Mosul, Iraq. At least four guardsmen were killed and three others were wounded, police said.



40 of the 45 existing battalions — generally all except those in the Fallujah-Ramadi area — are conducting operations on a daily basis — most alongside coalition forces, but many independently. Progress has also been made in police training. In the past week alone, some 1,100 graduated from the basic policing course and five specialty courses. By early spring, nine academies in Iraq and one in Jordan will be graduating a total of 5,000 police each month from the eight-week course, which stresses proper and investigative skills, substantive and procedural legal knowledge, and proper use of force and weaponry, as well as pride in the profession and adherence to

the police code of conduct.

Iraq's borders are long, stretching more than 2,200 miles. Reducing the flow of extremists and their resources across the borders is critical to success in the counterinsurgency. As a result, with support from the Department of Homeland Security, specialized training for Iraq's border enforcement elements began earlier this month in Jordan.

Regional academies in Iraq have begun training as well, and more will come online soon. In the months ahead, the 16,000-strong border force will expand to 24,000 and then 32,000. In addition, these forces will be provided with modern tech-

nology, including vehicle X-ray machines, explosive-detection devices and ground sensors.

Outfitting hundreds of thousands of new Iraqi security forces is difficult and complex, and many of the units are not yet fully equipped. But equipment has begun flowing. Since July 1, for example, more than 39,000 weapons and 22 million rounds of ammunition have been delivered to Iraqi forces, in addition to 42,000 sets of body armor, 4,400 vehicles, 16,000 radios and more than 235,000 uniforms.

Considerable progress is also being made in the reconstruction and refurbishing of infrastructure for Iraq's security forces. Some \$1 billion in construction to support this effort has been completed or is under way, and five Iraqi bases are already occupied by entire infantry brigades.

Numbers alone cannot convey the full story. The human dimension of this effort is crucial. The enemies of Iraq recognize how much is at stake as Iraq re-establishes its security forces. Insurgents and foreign forces continue to mount barbaric attacks against police stations, recruiting centers and military installations, even though the vast majority of the population deplores such attacks. Yet despite the sensational attacks, there is no shortage of qualified recruits volunteering to join Iraqi security forces. In the past couple of months, more than 7,500 Iraqi men have signed up for the army and are preparing to report for basic training to fill out the final nine battalions of the Iraqi regular army. Some 3,500 new police recruits just reported for training in various locations. And two days after the recent bombing on a street outside a police recruiting location in Baghdad, hundreds of Iraqis were once again lined up inside the police protection walls at another location — where they were greeted by interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

I meet with Iraqi security force leaders every day. Though some have given in to acts of intimidation, many are displaying courage and resilience in the face of repeated threats and attacks on them, their families and their comrades. I have seen their determination and their desire to assume the full burden of security tasks for Iraq.

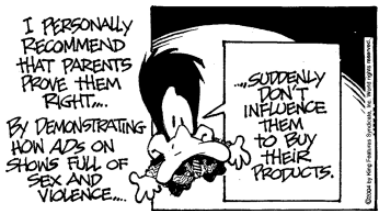
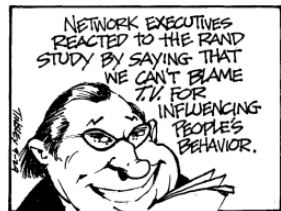
There will be more tough times, frustration and disappointment along the way. It is likely that insurgent attacks will escalate as Iraq's elections approach. Iraq's security forces are, however, developing steadily and they are in the fight.

Momentum has gathered in recent months. With strong Iraqi leaders out front and with continued coalition — and now NATO — support, this trend will continue. It will not be easy, but few worthwhile things are.

Momentum has gathered in recent months. With strong Iraqi leaders out front and with continued coalition — and now NATO — support, this trend will continue. It will not be easy, but few worthwhile things are.

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY



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weight, used \$510, Call John

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(evening) or 333-6228 (evening)

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inches deep, 36 inches wide, has

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Kadena, Oklahoma - Whirlpool

E1510F upright freezer, 15.2

cubic ft., \$300.00, Call David

Visum 910, 12 amp Vacuum

cleaner E1510, 2000, 3000, 3000

Samsung Vision TV, 19" 1000, 2000

Call 633-1513 or interested

Kadena, Oklahoma - Samsung

R1510AF powered sub

woofer, great addition to any

factory systems with our taking

up of your truck stereo, Excellent

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Furniture, Vertical blinds for sale

Kadena, Vietnam with a dining

room for dining and bathroom to

mounting. Measures 6'11" by 10'0"

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Kadena, Oklahoma - Redwood

living room and have changed

the lamps, I have two wooden

hanging with gold trim. They have

cream-colored shades on them

but they are a little worn, \$110.00

Call, Call Lendray at 633-3424

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PCS as possible due to PCS. Please

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curtains, 10 ft. high TV, 10 ft. wide

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inches deep, 36 inches wide, has

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Commissaries assist in efforts to raise voting awareness among military

by Bonnie Powell,
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — It's your future, vote for it! Commissaries worldwide are participating in a unique partnership with the Federal Voting Assistance Program and the Department of Defense to encourage all members of the uniformed services, retirees and their families to register and vote.

"Since commissaries are among the busiest locations on any installation, we can make a significant contribution toward increasing awareness among military families of the importance of registering to vote," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer for the Defense Commissary Agency.

All over the world, commissary employees are working directly with installation voting assistance officers, making space available for voter information and registration tables. "Our store directors are reporting that as many 40-60 people register to vote during

commissary events," said Nixon. "When you have commissaries hosting multiple registration events, there is a great potential to net very impressive results!" DeCA operates 273 commissaries worldwide.

The DeCA effort intensified during Armed Forces Voters week Sept. 3-11, and throughout the month of September, when all citizens under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) are specifically encouraged to register to vote, or request an absentee ballot.

DeCA also has a link to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site on the front page of www.commissaries.com. The FVAP site is packed with helpful information on topics such as absentee voting, individual state registration requirements and how to apply for an absentee ballot. The Web site also contains links to all state election sites, providing information about upcoming elections, and links to official Web sites of U.S. senators and representatives.



Defense Commissary Agency Chief Executive Officer Patrick B. Nixon takes a hands-on approach to a unique partnership with the Federal Voting Assistance Program and the Department of Defense by delivering voter information to Mal Jerold Bauer during Armed Forces Voters Week. Commissaries worldwide are participating in FVAP efforts to encourage all members of the uniformed services, retirees and their families to register and vote. "Since they are the local point of activity on installations, commissaries can make a significant contribution toward increasing awareness among military families of the importance of registering to vote," said Nixon. "Store personnel worldwide are working with their local voting assistance officers and making space available in commissaries for registration and information tables." (DeCA photo: Adam Austin)

Mashburn to miss entire NBA season

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Former All-Star forward Jamal Mashburn will miss the entire 2004-05 NBA season because of a knee injury that could end his career.

Mashburn and the New Orleans Hornets announced the news Monday, a day before the start of training camp.

The injury kept Mashburn, a 10-year veteran, out of all but 19 games last season after he underwent surgery to remove loose particles from his right knee. Mashburn said strenuous activity causes the knee to swell as badly as it did last March when his season ended. He averaged 20.8 points.

During a news conference, Mashburn acknowledged the injury could end his career, which began in 1993 as a first-round draft choice of the Dallas Mavericks. He also had a stint with the Miami Heat before joining the Hornets in 2000 and making the All-Star team during the 2002-03 season.

Mashburn said retirement is a possibility, but he's holding out hope that he might be able to play. "I have to remain optimistic," he said. "Hopefully, I can get better with rest. This is my livelihood. I have to stay positive."

The Hornets' insurance will provide about 80 percent of Mashburn's salary of about \$18 million over the last two years of his contract if he is not healthy enough to play.

Team trainers said several MRI exams performed over the summer indicated Mashburn had worn out cartilage in his right knee, causing bones to grind together and leaving a bruise and an irritation.

"I'm hoping with a rest and a lack of pounding, things will heal themselves and maybe there's a possibility in a year or so," Mashburn said. "I just have to take a wait-and-see approach. There's not a particular thing I can do. I've been trying everything. It's a frustrating situation."

Court hears Hamm's case

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Paul Hamm appeared before the

Sports briefs

sports world's highest court Monday to argue why he should keep his Olympic gymnastics gold medal.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport convened to hear the appeal from a South Korean who lost the gold medal in the men's all-around in last month's Athens Olympics because of a scoring error.

Yang Tae-young wants CAS to order international gymnastics officials to change the rankings and give him the gold and Hamm the silver. Hamm and the U.S. Olympic Committee promise to vigorously fight Yang's appeal.

"That's why we're all here, to keep the medal," Hamm told Associated Press Television News as he arrived in Switzerland.

"After it's all done, hopefully the medal will stay with me."

Bryant defense drops requests to seal evidence

ENGLE, Colo. — Kobe Bryant attorneys have dropped requests to seal evidence in the NBA star's rape case Monday, saying the details would be leaked anyway and that releasing all the documents will reveal the unprofessional prosecution was.

In a scathing court filing, defense lawyer Pamela Mackey alleged "unlawful or improper conduct" by law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the case, including the leaking of information and suppression of evidence suggesting Bryant was innocent.

Prosecution spokesman Krista Flannigan did not immediately return a call seeking comment. District Attorney Mark Hurlbert dropped the felony sexual assault charge against Bryant at the alleged victim's request Sept. 1. He recently said evidence and documents in the case should be released, saying the public's interest in reviewing actions and decisions by prosecutors and the judge outweighed Bryant's privacy concerns.

New Orleans Hornets forward Jamal Mashburn, left, says goodbye to Hornets coach Byron Scott on Monday Mashburn will sit out the 2004-05 NBA season due to a persistent injury to his right knee.

While the case was pending, Hurlbert had said releasing the information could make it difficult to find impartial jurors to decide whether Bryant assaulted a 19-year-old woman at a Vail-area resort last year. Bryant admitted only to having consensual sex with the resort employee, now 20.

Bryant's lawyers earlier had asked Hart to seal the evidence and documents, saying they include "highly sensitive, confidential, embarrassing and private" matters of interest only for "salacious and other improper purposes."

Bryant still faces a federal civil suit filed by the accuser.

Sexton to start for Florida St.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Wyatt Sexton will make his first start at quarterback for Florida State, replacing injured Chris Rix for Saturday's home game against North Carolina.

Rix sprained his right ankle last weekend's 41-21 victory over Clemson, and coach Bobby Bowden said Monday he will be out at least two weeks.

Sexton, a sophomore whose father was a Florida State quarterback three decades ago, entered the game late in the first quarter with Florida State trailing 7-3 and turned in a strong performance.

"He could have gone in and struck out," Bowden said. "It's not like he went in with a 30-point lead. He went in when we were behind."

Sexton threw for 162 yards and a touchdown.

Syracuse's Jackson out of hospital after being stabbed

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Syracuse starting cornerback Tanard Jackson

was released from the hospital Monday after being stabbed in the chest during a fight outside the campus student center.

Pasqualoni said Jackson probably would miss Saturday's Big East opener against Rutgers in the Carrier Dome.

Police said Jackson and his roommate, Reggie McCoy, a safety on the team, were in a parking lot outside the Schine Stadium Center at about 2 a.m. Sunday when a fight broke out involving about 15 people following a fraternity-sponsored dance.

Jackson was attacked while walking to his car with friends, university spokesman Kevin Morrow said. During the dance, a group of football players stepped in to end a confrontation between two groups, Morrow said.

On Saturday, Jackson had four tackles in Syracuse's 31-10 loss at No. 12 Virginia.

Robinson to retire from UNLV

LAS VEGAS — UNLV coach John Robinson will retire at the end of the season because of family issues, leaving the struggling program with one year left on his contract.

The Rebels fell to 0-4 after a 31-21 loss at home to Utah State on Thursday. Robinson, who has two coaching stints at Southern California and another with the NFL's Los Angeles Rams, is 26-37 in six seasons with UNLV.

Leslie is WNBA's top defender

LOS ANGELES — Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks was selected the WNBA's defensive player of the year Sunday.

Yolanda Griffith of the Sacramento Monarchs finished second in voting by a national panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Brewers reportedly accept bid

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Brewers have agreed to accept an offer from Los Angeles investor Mark L. Attanasio to buy the team from the family of baseball commissioner Bud Selig.

Daniel Gilbert, the founder and chairman of Quicken Loans, said Monday that he was told the team had selected another buyer, and a lawyer in baseball, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that Attanasio's offer was orally accepted by the Brewers' board last week.

Attanasio and the team are in the process of drafting the sale agreement, the lawyer said.

The Brewers' acceptance was first reported by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on its Web site.

"I am deeply disappointed that the Brewers have chosen another direction in the sale of the club," Gilbert said. "After nearly eight long months of negotiations, I believed we were on the verge of announcing a deal when I was informed of the Brewers' decision to sell the team to another party."

Steve Greenberg, a New York-based investment banker who is part of the Brewers' decision, said "a decision is imminent," and he expected it to be announced by the end of the week.

"Despite everything else that's been swirling around today, there's nothing to announce at this point," Greenberg said.

Attanasio's spokesman, Bill Mendel, declined comment Monday.

The franchise started play as the Seattle Pilots in 1969 and was bought by Selig in bankruptcy proceedings and moved to Milwaukee in 1970.

Selig's family owns the majority interest in the team — 26 percent — but Selig hasn't drawn a salary since becoming commissioner full time in 1998.

Attanasio is a chief investment officer in the investment firm Trust Company of the West, which provides accounting and management services to foundations.

The Brewers were believed to be seeking more than \$180 million for the team, which has been for sale since January.

Wind blows parity into Marine soccer

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — The teams from Iwakuni Air Station of Japan and Marine Corps Base Hawaii were greeted by rain when they arrived Saturday for the Marine Forces Pacific Regional Soccer Tournament.

They spent almost all of Sunday in lockdown courtesy of Typhoon Meari.

Finally, when the weather cleared, the two teams headed out to clear the cobwebs.

"We couldn't stay cooped up

for two days, so we went out and kicked the ball in the rain," Iwakuni's Odbio Otrazera said.

When play finally began at 11 a.m. Monday, weather continued to be a factor: Southeasterly winds, a Meari leftover, gusts up to 30 mph, turning each match into what one coach called a "two-half game."

The teams with the wind at their backs outscored the ones with the wind in their faces 18-9, with Hawaii accounting for five of the seven teams finishing the first day with 1-1 records, including two-time defending champion Hawaii and 2003 runner-up Iwakuni.

A 2-1 Hawaii loss to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing served as a "psychological blow," said Hawaii coach Andy Gasper, who partly blamed the loss on the conditions.

"We still feel like we're the team to beat," he said, "but the wind ... Hopefully, when the wind dies down, we can get back to playing our game."

Meanwhile, U.S. Naval Hospital Camp Lester (1-1), which hadn't played in the tournament since 2000, won a game for the first time.

"We have some guys who are serious about soccer, they prac-

tice and put in the time, and that makes a difference," said Mel Harris, who serves as a sports advisor for Hospital.

Only 3rd Force Service Support Group, which won the tournament in 2000 and 2001, went undefeated Monday. It won two matches, thanks to Thomas Raburn's six-goal performance.

"This is his year," said teammate Michael Garcia, who assisted on two of Raburn's goals.

But at least one coach says the tournament is wide open.

"There's no dominant team," said coach Peter Burcheson of

Marine Forces Pacific Regional Soccer Tournament

At Field 1, Foster Field Complex, Camp Foster, Okinawa						
3rd Force	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	Pts
Hawaii	2	0	1.000	7	2	6
Marine	1	1	.500	5	3	3
Wing	1	1	.500	2	3	3
Hospital	1	1	.500	5	3	3
Wing	1	1	.500	4	3	3
Iwakuni	1	1	.500	4	3	3
Division	1	1	.500	4	3	3

Monday's scores

Hawaii 4, Iwakuni 1	Wing 1, Wg 1
3rd Force 2, Hospital 1	Iwakuni 2, Hospital 2, SO (3-1)
Wing 1, Hawaii 1	Hospital 2, Base 1
Hospital 2, Division 1	3rd Force 3, Division 1

Wing. "It's all about who shows up in the knockout round."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornay@stripes.osd.mil

Dodgers' lead is 2½ with one week left

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Jim Tracy has spent many evenings in the visiting manager's office in San Francisco, explaining how the Los Angeles Dodgers lost a big game or how another lost season got away.

So when the Dodgers earned a victory to take control of their division race against their longtime rivals, Tracy was determined to enjoy this room for once.

"It's a lot more fun to be here when you win," Tracy said Sunday after the Dodgers finished a 7-4 victory over the Giants.

Alex Cruz homered and drove in two runs for the second straight day. Eric Gagne got the final six outs and the Dodgers moved 2½ games ahead of the Giants by taking two of three weekend games in San Francisco.

"It's right in front of us," said Shawn Green, who walked four times — including once with the bases loaded to force in the go-ahead run. "We've just got to have a solid last week of the season, and it's ours. It's pretty cut and dried."

Barry Bonds' 703rd homer gave the Giants a third-inning lead, but Gagne, Cruz and Green were among several heroes for the Dodgers, who manufactured more than enough runs to win it.

"We're in great shape right now," said Gagne, who got his 45th save in 47 chances. "We've still got to win some games, but it looks good."

Jayson Werth hit an early two-run homer off Brett Tomko, who lost for the first time in 12



San Francisco center fielder Marquis Grissom drops a fly ball in the ninth inning on Sunday that led to the last run in Los Angeles' 7-4 victory over the Giants.

starts since July 29. Jeff Weaver (13-12) allowed nine hits over six innings for his first victory in six starts, resoundingly keeping Los Angeles on top until his bullpen could take over.

Relievers Mike Venafro and Giovanni Carrara got big outs in the seventh, holding San Francisco to one run in its rally. The Giants put two runners on in the ninth when Bonds beat out an infield single and J.T. Snow walked, but Gagne struck out Devri Cruz to end it.

Cruz had three hits and an RBI for the Giants (87-69), who wasted a chance to reclaim the wild-card lead from the Chicago Cubs (87-68).

"This was the most mentally challenging and exhausting game since I've been here," said Snow, a Giant since 1997. "The whole series was that way. We'd go up, they'd go up. We just have to play better, that's all there is to it. We're doing the chasing, and we just have to play better."

Marquis Grissom dropped Milton Bradley's fly to center for a three-base error in the ninth, allowing Green to score from first. It was Grissom's first error in 170 games.

Angels close in on A's

Oakland's lead sliced to one game over Anaheim

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels know how to bounce back.

John Lackey fell behind early before Anaheim rallied behind three RBIs from Troy Glaus to beat Oakland 6-2 on Sunday and close within one game of the AL West-leading Athletics with a week to play.

"We got to keep pushing," Lackey said. "We got to be at our best these next couple of games."

After losing Friday's series opener, the Angels won two straight and head to Texas for a four-game series starting Monday before closing with three games at Oakland. The A's, who hold a two-game lead over the Rangers, host Seattle for four games starting Monday.

"It's going to be a interesting finish," Oakland manager Ken Macha said.

Mark Mulder (17-7) was knocked out in the fourth inning, his shortest outing this season. Oakland, which has lost sole possession of the division lead since Aug. 6, dropped to 10-14 in September.

"If we don't turn it around, we're in trouble," left fielder Eric Byrnes said.

Before the game, the Angels suspended left fielder Jose Guillen for the rest of the season for an outburst after being lifted for a pinch runner a day earlier and said he would remain suspended if the team advances to the postseason. Guillen is hitting .294 with 27 homers and a career-high 104 RBIs.

He understands the line he crossed," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We had to do something with Jose. It was an issue getting in the way of winning."

Lackey (14-12) gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings, improving to 10-4 since June 16 and squaring the season series 8-8.



John Lackey overcame early trouble to pitch the Anaheim Angels to a 6-2 win over Oakland, cutting the Athletics' AL West lead to one game.

"My changeup has made my fastball more effective. It's really been a great tool for me. I had a breakthrough game with it against Texas," he said, referring to a July 28 victory. "Ever since then I've really trusted it."

Glaus and David Eckstein homered for Anaheim, which pulled away with two runs in the eighth off Arthur Rhodes.

Mulder gave up four runs and six hits in 3½ innings, his second straight poor performance. On Tuesday, he lasted four innings in a 9-4 loss at Texas, giving up nine runs.

"Everything kind of feels flat, and nothing is really sinking the way it should. It's just kind of sliding across the strike zone, and that's making things a little more hittable," Mulder said. "He usually would never come and get me that early, but I've also never pitched the way I'm pitching right now. I'm not going to help the team by doing what I'm doing."

Mulder is scheduled to start Friday, but Macha said he would dis-

miss it with the left-hander on Monday.

"It's extremely difficult. He's our horse. We've relied on him all year," Macha said. "The kid does nothing but give you all he's got out there, but we're in a pennant race."

Eric Chavez hit a sacrifice fly to drive in Anaheim's first run in the first inning, but Glaus' RBI singled the tie game in the bottom half.

Guillen's replacement, Adam Riggs, gave the Angels a 2-1 lead with an RBI double in the second. Glaus hit a two-run homer in the third that made it 4-1.

One of Lackey's two wild pitches led to Oakland's second run, scoring Byrnes in the fifth.

Oakland put two on with one out in the eighth, but Erubiel Durazo flied out against Francisco Rodriguez — Durazo was so frustrated that he tapped his bat against his helmet — and Jermaine Dye grounded out.

Bengie Molina squeezed home a run for the Angels in the bottom half, and Eckstein homered later in the inning.

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Padres hang on after sweep

BY BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — While the rest of his teammates were running on adrenaline, slugger Phil Nevin needed four bags of IV fluid to get through a critical weekend for the San Diego Padres.

Fighting a virus that's been going around the clubhouse, Nevin had IVs on Saturday night and again an hour before Sunday's game, which the Padres won 7-1 for a three-game sweep of Arizona that helped them maintain their lead in the NL wild-card race.

"I've been waiting a long time to play games that mean something this time of year," said Nevin, who hit two sacrifice flies Sunday. "I wasn't about to sit one out."

Nevin joined the Padres in 1999, the year after they were

swept by the New York Yankees in the World Series. San Diego had five straight losing seasons before rebuilding into a contender this year.

With Jake Peavy pitching six innings to lower his NL-leading ERA to 2.25, the Padres pulled within 2½ games of the Chicago Cubs in the wild-card race and remained 4½ games behind first-place Los Angeles in the NL West. Houston and San Francisco are also ahead of the Padres in the wild-card chase, and the Giants are two games ahead of San Diego in the division.

Nevin was too sick to drive to his suburban home after Saturday night's game, so he checked into a hotel near the downtown ballpark.

On Sunday, he skipped his usual postgame beer with teammate Brian Giles and sprawled on a clubhouse couch, watching football on TV.

The Padres host the Giants for three games starting Tuesday night.

"We've got a day off tomorrow so that'll be a lot of recovery time, and hopefully I'll feel good on Tuesday," Nevin said.

The Padres know they've got to win their remaining six games and get help from other teams. "Crazier" things have happened," Ryan Klesko said.

After three games against the Giants, the Padres finish with three at Arizona, which has the worst record in the majors. That same weekend, the Giants play three games against the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Peavy (14-6), in his second full big league season, allowed one run and three hits, struck out three and walked two. He needs to pitch 1½ more innings this season to qualify for the ERA tie. He has one more start scheduled.

Suzuki gets 251st; needs six for mark

BY RON KROICHICK
San Francisco Chronicle

OAKLAND, Calif. — Hall of Fame first baseman George Sisler died in 1973 in Richmond Heights, Mo. Ichiro Suzuki was born the same year, with little fanfare, around the globe in Kasugai, Japan.

His paths could cross this week in Oakland, at least in a historic baseball sense.

Ichiro and his Seattle Mariners began a four-game series against the Athletics on Monday night. As the A's try to win the American League West title, Ichiro seeks to break a major-league record that has stood, largely unchallenged, for 84 years.

He needed six hits to match Sisler's season standard of 257, set in 1920 for the St. Louis Browns.

It's a curiously unglamorous

record, without the magical aura of the home-run mark held so long by Babe Ruth and Roger Maris, or the 56-game hitting streak of Joe DiMaggio.

In the 10 days after Sisler set the record, five players collected 250 or more hits in a season. In the next 70 years, no player even flirted with 250 and only Wade Boggs and Darin Erstad reached 240.

Then along came Ichiro, a small, fleet leadoff hitter with an off-balance, whippet-like swing. He knocked out 242 hits as a major-league rookie in 2001, and now enters the final week of this season with a clear eye on catching Sisler.

It's mind-boggling to think about that many hits in one season. "A's shortstop Bobby Crosby said,

Here's some context: Hank Aaron did not have more than 223 hits in a season, Tony Gwynn, who owns the highest career batting average (.338) of any player in the past 40 years, had 220 in his last season.

Ted Williams, widely acknowledged as the greatest hitter who ever lived, didn't exceed 194.

Ichiro doesn't walk as often as Aaron or Williams, in part because pitchers seldom worry about his power. He has only 36



Ichiro Suzuki slaps a single to left in the fifth inning for his 251st hit of the season. He's six away from the major-league record with seven games left in the season.

extra-base hits this season, including eight home runs; Sisler had 86 extra-base hits in 1920, including 19 homers.

This chase still has caused a commotion in Japan. Ichiro climbed back on pace with five hits last Tuesday night in Anaheim (Wednesday morning in Tokyo); he was the lead story on Wednesday night's national news, consuming the first seven minutes of a 30-minute telecast.

Cardboard cutouts of Ichiro and Sisler stood in the back-ground.

'Jumpy ball' TD throw sparks Broncos' win

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

DENVER — Plays like these get drawn up in the playground, not the play book.

On a fourth-down gamble, Jake Plummer lofted a high, jump ball to Ashley Lelie. Lelie reached over the defender and made the catch. The result: a touchdown for the Denver Broncos, and a huge shift of momentum that led them to a 23-13 victory over the San Diego Chargers on Sunday.

"It's not exactly what you draw up on fourth down," Plummer said. "But I just got out of the pocket, I threw it up there and I figured, he's 6-4, long and tall — let him outjump the other guy."

Lelie, who is really 6-foot-5, did just that, winning the one-on-one showdown with 6-foot corner-back Quentin Jammer for the 33-yard touchdown that gave Denver (2-1) a 10-point lead late in the third quarter.

Just as importantly, it stifled the momentum San Diego (1-2) gained moments earlier when the Chargers recovered Quentin Griffin's third fumble of the season and converted it into a touchdown to cut Denver's lead to 13-10.

The Broncos stalled at midfield after the Chargers score, but San Diego's Kassim Osgood roughed the punter, and three plays later, Mike Shanahan opted against a field goal and called the play that resulted in Plummer hanging one into the back right corner of the end zone. Pinned behind Jammer, Lelie fought him off, caught the ball and landed hard on the ground, his helmet coming off as he lit.

Although replays didn't show it, Jammer thought Lelie pushed him before he made the catch.

"It's hard to make a play on the ball when the guy pushes you in the back," Jammer said. "I was trying to get up and get it, but he made a good play on it. You just have to live with those calls."

Shanahan said he didn't have second thoughts about going for it on fourth down.

"I felt like if we missed the field goal, the momentum would go the other way," he said. "Jake made a big-time throw, a big-time play. It doesn't always happen that way. I'm glad they bailed me out."

Plummer finished with 294 yards and two touchdowns, including a 16-yarder to Rod Smith to open the scoring. Lelie, largely considered a disappointment his first two years in Denver, caught four passes for 67 yards and his first TD since Sept. 28, 2003, a span of 15 games.

"Has it been that long?" Lelie said. "Yeah, it felt good, just because it helped us win."

LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 60 yards for the Chargers and has yet to break the 100-yard mark in four games at Denver. Drew Brees threw for 121 yards, and never got into the flow. In fact, his best play was a 28-yard reception from Tomlinson on a trick play. It got the Chargers down to the Broncos 12, but they wound up with a field goal instead of a touchdown.

"What you see is a number of missed opportunities that we had that we failed to capitalize on, and the Broncos did," Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer said.

Kim charges to first LPGA victory

The Associated Press

AUBURN, Calif. — Christina Kim made a charge on the back nine, shooting a 6-under 65 to beat Karrie Webb by a shot and win the Longs Drugs Challenge for her first LPGA victory.

Kim, the first-round leader with a 64, made five birdies on the back side in finishing with an 18-under 266 at The Ridge Golf Club.

Webb had a chance to force a playoff on the final hole, but missed a 7-foot birdie attempt. Webb shot a 64 on Sunday that included two birdies on the front side and an eagle to move into contention.

She shared the lead until Kim's birdie on the 17th.

On the 18th, Kim's birdie putt rolled left of the hole. But Webb

Golf roundup

then missed her birdie attempt.

Two-time Longs Drugs winner Juli Inkster had three

birdies on the front side and led by two shots heading to No. 10. But she played the back nine at even par and couldn't hold off Kim, settling for a 68 to finish two shots behind.

Third-round leader Leta Lindley shot a 76.

The best round of the day belonged to Anna Acker-Macosko, who shot an 11-under 60 and made a run at Annika Sorenstam's tour record of 59. She had a birdie chance on No. 18, but the downhill 30-footer broke right of the hole and she settled for par. She finished at 13-under 271.

Hurricane stops Singh

THOMASTOWN, Ireland — Vijay Singh withdrew Monday from the American Express Championship, electing to stay home in Florida to help his family cope with damage caused by Hurricane Jeanne.

Singh won the 84 Lumber Classic on Sunday, his third straight victory and eighth of the year. He had planned to fly home Sunday night to Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., a coastal city near Jacksonville, before leaving for the \$7 million World Golf Championship event in Ireland.

Tournament organizers said Singh was not able to return home until Monday. He found that his home was without power and water was starting to enter the beachfront property.

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Due: Good day for receivers

DUEL FROM BACK PAGE

Walker also had his best day as a pro, catching 11 passes for 198 yards and three TDs — before fumbling away Green Bay's comeback chance.

"That shouldn't have happened," he said. "I should have secured the ball."

The Colts did anything they wanted against the Packers defense.

Manning exploited the gaping holes in a secondary that was without starting cornerback Mike McKenzie and nickel back Ahmad Carroll. McKenzie's replacement, Michael Hawthorne, was also out for part of the game because of a blow to the head.

"I heard Coach Dungy say we may throw it 50 times, and I just looked at him and said, 'Did I just hear that right?'" Manning said.

Manning opened the game with a 36-yard TD pass to Wayne, a 28-yard score to Marvin Harrison and a 34-yard score to Stokely.

Favre continued with two TD tosses to Walker — a 36-yarder and the 79-yarder that made it 21-14 just 10:49 into the game.

There were only some scores, even Favre lost count.

Favre joked of Manning: "Aside from throwing four touchdown passes in the first quarter, I thought he was average."

Favre tried to rally the Packers in the second half.

Trailing 35-17, Favre threw a 12-yard TD pass to Walker in the third quarter and got Green Bay to 38-31 after Donald Driver hopped down the sideline for a 27-yard TD catch with 13:12 to go.

The Packers then forced two three-and-outs and appeared to be moving on a game-tying drive midway through the fourth quarter when Favre hit Walker on a 6-yard completion.

But as Walker tried to break the tackle, David, a fourth-round draft pick, swatted the ball. Harper recovered it, and the Colts converted with Edgerrin James' 1-yard TD run with 1:49 left.

"Jason knew he was going to get tested, and he finally came back to make a play when it really mattered," Dungy said. "That was great to see."

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Steelers overcome hurricane, Miami

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Ben Roethlisberger's first pass was his worst.

The rookie overcame a slow start, remnants of Hurricane Jeanne and the Miami Dolphins' blitzing defense to help the Pittsburgh Steelers win 13-3 Sunday night.

Making his first NFL start, Roethlisberger was intercepted on his first play. But that was his lone costly mistake despite torrential rain in the first half that made the ball and footing slippery.

"It was muddy, and it was wet, but it was a lot of fun," said Roethlisberger, the No. 11 pick in the April draft. "To come out playing in a hurricane against that type of defense was a challenge for us."

Roethlisberger went 12-for-22 for 163 yards and the only touchdown. Duce Staley ran for 101 yards, and Pittsburgh's defense held the rest, forcing four turnovers and making a key fourth-down stop.

"The weather in the first half was not conducive to doing anything," said coach Bill Cowher, whose team improved to 2-1.

"We couldn't even hold the ball. Both teams couldn't throw it. But that's the kind of football I love."

The Dolphins fell to 0-3 for the first time since 1969, the year before Don Shula became coach. They've totaled 23 points.

"We've got to score some points," coach Leonid Stokely said. "Back's get right to the bottom line. We've just got to find a way to make more plays."

Hines Ward scored all the points Pittsburgh needed by making a diving catch of a pass from Roethlisberger for a 7-yard touchdown.

Jeff Reed hit field goals of 40 and 51 yards, the latter coming after the Steelers stopped A.J.



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger scrambles out of the pocket against the Miami Dolphins during a downpour in the third quarter at Pro Player Stadium in Miami on Sunday.

Feeley on a fourth-down quarterback sneak at midfield.

Announced attendance was 72,225, but with Florida just beginning to recover from its latest hurricane, the actual crowd was about 30,000. Officials decided Saturday to push the starting time back 7½ hours to avoid the worst of Hurricane Jeanne.

That meant a 48-hour wait in Miami before kickoff for the Steelers. The storm also forced them to sleep in stuffy rooms Saturday night, because Jeanne knocked out power at the team hotel from 8:30 p.m. to 5:20 a.m. Sunday.

Heavy rain in the first half left standing water in the baseball infield, which made footing especially treacherous on that part of

the field. The start of the second half was delayed so the grounds crew could apply additional dirt.

"That was the worst weather I ever played in," Ward said.

It turned out to be Steelers weather, and their defense bruised more than just the Dolphins' pride. A jarring tackle by Chris Hope sent running back Lamar Gordon from the game with an injured left shoulder, and his replacement, Leonard Henry, was knocked backward by a big hit from James Farrior.

Even before the heaviest rain, the Dolphins committed three turnovers on their first seven plays. The crowd was small but vocal, booing Feeley, the rest of the Dolphins' offense and the play-calling.

"They ought to boo us the whole time," said linebacker Zach Thomas, directing his comments at the entire team. "We're not making big plays. Why would you pay for a ticket?"

Miami's best drive of the night covered 44 yards, setting up a 34-yard field goal by Olindo Mare with 13:25 left to make the score 6-3. But Roethlisberger drove the Steelers 61 yards for a touchdown with six minutes left.

The last rookie quarterback to beat the Dolphins was New England's Drew Bledsoe in 1994.

"Ben played well," Cowher said. "After the first play when he threw the interception, he bounced back. After that he made good decisions."

Backup QB Collins helps Raiders beat former coach

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kerry Collins is a former Super Bowl quarterback who backs up a former NFL MVP.

But he knows how to play long. Collins, playing in place of injured starter Rich Gannon, shined for the Oakland Raiders in Sunday night's emotional 30-20 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers — just like he did throughout the preseason.

When Gannon went down early after a helmet-to-helmet hit, Collins took over and calmly led the Raiders in their highly anticipated reunion with former coach Jon Gruden, longtime Raiders receiver Tim Brown and running back Charlie Garner, who was likely lost for the season with a torn patellar tendon in his right knee.

As well as things went, Collins isn't counting on taking over the No. 1 job anytime soon. "I know this, Rich Gannon is a tough guy, and if he's ready to go next week he'll be in there," said Collins, who joined the Raiders in May after the New York Giants released him when they acquired No. 1 draft pick Eli Manning.

Collins led four scoring drives, completing 16-for-27 passes for 228 yards and one touchdown.

After Jerry Rice's record receptions streak was snapped last week, Brown owns the longest active run, and he extended it to 176 games on a 7-yard reception with 14:28 left. Brown's 16-yard TD reception with 10:45 left was his 100th career touchdown catch — and the Bucs' first offensive TD of the season.

Brown passed Hall of Famer Don Hutson for fourth in career touchdown catches. He received a warm ovation from the otherwise hostile Raider Nation.

Brown, who spent his first 16 NFL seasons with the Raiders (2-1), was released during training camp when he refused to accept a drastically reduced role.

"To get 100 in front of the Raider Nation, there's no better place," Brown said.

There were more handshakes before this one than at a political fund-raiser. Warren Sapp had to love it. Oakland's loquacious defensive tackle said this game was for bragging rights, and he beat his old team handily.

"Big buildup, great game and the right outcome," Sapp said.

Sapp never played football outside of Florida until agreeing to a seven-year, \$36.6 million free agent contract after the Bucs didn't re-sign him.

Tampa Bay (0-3) looks nothing like the team that beat Oakland 48-21 in the 2003 Super Bowl in Gruden's first year as Bucs coach.

Before Brown's touchdown, Martin Gramaticke kicked field goals of 36 and 30 yards. He missed a 44-yarder.

Brad Johnson threw for 309 yards, but Philip Buchanon intercepted a pass and returned it 32 yards in the third quarter to make it 23-6. Gannon was taken to the locker room for examination, then returned to the sideline in the second half.

Garner was carted off the field with 5:57 left before halftime and didn't return.

Gruden, who coached the Raiders for four seasons, is 0-3 for the first time in his career. He was on the field early saying hello to friends, then was booed when he ran onto the field before the game. He ran past Raiders owner Al Davis without stopping.

"I don't mean any disrespect. I wasn't greeted very nicely," Gruden said. "I've got a full understanding of Raiders fans and the Black Hole. God bless them. ... It was a great feeling for me. It is one of the more exciting times in my career to go back where I came from."

Gannon sidelined with neck injury

The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Oakland quarterback Rich Gannon has a broken vertebra in his neck that will sideline him at least six weeks.

Gannon had an MRI exam Monday morning and was taken for further tests. Coach Norv Turner didn't believe Gannon was at risk for paralysis and said the quarterback was walking around after the team's training facility before receiving the news about his neck.

"He will be out an extended period. A six-week deal, or maybe longer," Turner said. "It's disappointing. . . . It makes you sick to your stomach when any player puts as much into it as Rich has."

Turner said it would be premature to speculate whether Gannon, the 2002 NFL MVP, would end up on injured reserve for the second straight season.

The 38-year-old Gannon left in the first quarter of Oakland's 30-20 victory over Tampa Bay on Sunday night after taking a helmet-to-helmet hit from linebacker Derrick Brooks.

Gannon ran 2 yards on third-and-goal during the Raiders' first offensive series, and was stopped at the 5 by Brooks. Gannon grimaced in pain on the ground, but walked off the field on his own, looking groggy.

He was examined by trainers, then the field's backup Kerry Collins warmed up. Gannon was taken to the locker room for examination of his back, then returned to the sideline in the second-half wearing a jacket and cap and his uniform pants.

"One comment Rich made to me this morning was, 'I know better,'" Turner said of running in that situation. "It was a heck of a hit."

Titans McNair hospitalized with bruised sternum

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair will stay in the hospital Monday night with a bruised sternum and will be listed as questionable on the NFL injury report.

X-rays and a CAT scan showed no serious injuries, and McNair will be released from the hospital Tuesday.



He's just very sore," coach Jeff Fisher said.

After losing 15-12 to Jacksonville on Sunday, McNair spent the night in the hospital after he was unable to take deep breaths without pain. He spent more than an hour in the trainer's room after the game with a bag of ice on his chest.

McNair, the NFL's top rushing quarterback since 1997, apparently was hurt at the end of a 14-yard scramble. Instead of sliding, McNair dove forward looking for more yardage.

As he went down, 312-pound Jaguars defensive tackle Marcus Stroud came down on McNair's back.

"This isn't the first time McNair has bruised his sternum or breastbone."

McNair spent two nights in a hospital in September 2000 after being hit by Kansas City's Dante Clemons. He practiced very little that week, then came off the bench to rally the Titans to a 23-20 victory over Pittsburgh in the final three games of the season.

"The injury is not as severe as in 2000 against the Chiefs, but it's the same type of injury," Fisher said.

The Titans (1-2) visit the San Diego Chargers (1-2) on Sunday.

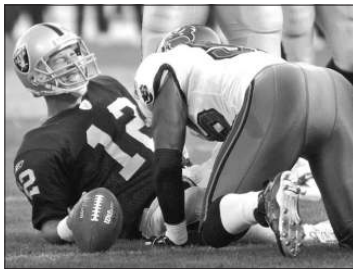
Bears lose QB Grossman for season

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chicago Bears quarterback Rex Grossman will miss the rest of the season after rupturing a ligament in his right knee.

"In a split-second, I knew I was out for the year," Grossman said Monday. "It's devastating."

Backup quarterback Jonathan Quinn, who signed with the Bears in March, will become the starter.

Grossman was injured in Sunday's 27-22 loss to Minnesota when he scored on a 6-yard scramble at the 2-minute warning. He left the stadium wearing a brace and using a crutch. An MRI confirmed the anterior cruciate ligament tear.



Oakland Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon grimaces after he was tackled by Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Derrick Brooks, right, in the first quarter Sunday. Gannon broke a vertebra in his neck on the play.

Grossman is expected to undergo surgery in a couple weeks and will face up to 10 months of rehabilitation.

"Personally, all I can do is work as hard as I can, do what the doctors tell me to do, get healthy and learn the offense," Grossman said. "The injury" just postponed my excitement for playing football for a little bit."

Grossman was the fourth quarterback chosen in the 2003 NFL draft and started the final three games of the season for Chicago last year. On Sunday, he completed 21 of 31 passes for 248 yards.

Bucs' Garner tears tendon

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay's Charlie Garner will miss the remainder of the season after tearing his right patella tendon in his right knee, another blow to an already injury-riddled offense.

The 11th-year running back was carted off the field during the second quarter of Sunday night's 30-20 loss at Oakland, a defeat that dropped the Bucs to 0-3 for the first time since 1996.

Garner, who signed with the Bucs after having offseason surgery on his left knee, slipped as he made a cut and appeared to twist his right leg. A teammate and a Raider also tripped over him.

Garner, 32, was one of the most productive players in the league the past five seasons, averaging nearly 100 yards total offense per game to rank sixth with 7,812 yards. He was limited to nine starts last season by a nagging knee problem and was slowed during training camp this summer by a sore hamstring.

Knee injury ends season for Bengals' Webster

CINCINNATI — Bengals middle linebacker Nate Webster will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Webster had surgery Monday to repair the patella tendon in his right knee, torn during the closing minutes of a 23-9 loss to the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday. The Bengals will place him on injured reserve later in the week.

Webster's loss is a major setback to a defense that's been run over. The Bengals (1-2) have given up 196 yards to Jets running back Curtis Martin and allowed 186 on Sunday to Jamal Lewis.

Linebackers are averaging 5.7 yards per carry, the most in the NFL.

Webster, 26, signed with the Bengals as a free agent last March after four years with Tampa Bay.

Eagles lose another key player in Ritchie

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia Eagles fullback Jon Ritchie will miss the rest of the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in Sunday's 30-13 victory over the Detroit Lions.

"We'll miss Jon," Eagles coach Andy Reid said Monday. "He's a good football player and he's great in the locker room. I encouraged him to stick around the team as much as he can because he's a positive influence."

Ritchie is the fourth significant player the Eagles have lost for the season, joining running back Cornell Buchanan (knee), right guard Shawn Andrews (leg) and defensive end N.D. Kalu (knee).

Favre reveals non-throwing arm problem

By ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — No stranger to injuries, Brett Favre can add another ailment to his list: a bum left shoulder to go with a bruised left hamstring.

The three-time MVP revealed after the Green Bay Packers' loss at Indianapolis on Sunday that his non-throwing shoulder has been bothering him for two years.

"If it was my right one, I wouldn't be playing," Favre said. "But I feel like Mike Gibson in 'Fatal Weapon.' It's just kind of loose and kind of wobbles around and pops out from time to time. As long as it pops back, I'm OK."

Favre, who has started 211 consecutive games, including playoffs, an NFL record for quarterbacks, was asked about the shoulder after he winced and held his left arm lower when signaling touchdown after one of his four TD throws against the Colts.

"It's been hurting for about two years. It's just that with each day that passes, believe it or not, it gets worse and worse," Favre said.

Favre said he considered surgery last winter, but decided against it, figuring rest was best.

"But when I started training camp, I suddenly felt worse than it did at the end of the season," Favre said. "But so far the worst of it is doing the half-touchdown [celebration]. I can live with that."

Apparently, the Packers' coach-general manager Mike Sherman said Monday he's been aware of the injury since last season.

"Any time No. 4 has an injury there's a level of concern," Sherman said. "He's not overly concerned by it. But it's always been a concern of mine. I ask him about it. The doctor will check on it. It doesn't detract from his performance."

"It's something that he might have looked at when he retires someday. But if it causes him an issue, then it'll be looked at sooner. But it hasn't been an issue."

Favre, who turns 35 in two weeks, is expected to make his 212th straight start Sunday against the New York Giants. He has thrown for 755 yards with six touchdowns and two interceptions so far.

He threw for 360 yards in his shootout with Peyton Manning on Sunday.

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

■ Peyton Manning, Colts, threw for 393 yards and five first-half touchdowns in a 45-21 win over Green Bay. Manning had the most TD throws in one half since Tommy Kramer in 1986, and the most yards in a quarter: 247. Since Boomer Esiason in 1996.

■ Favre, Packers, threw for 366 yards and four TDs in the same game.

■ Dante Culpepper, Vikings, passed for 366 yards and two TDs and ran for a score in a 27-22 win over Chicago.

■ Aaron Brooks, Titans, was 24-for-41 for 316 yards and a touchdown, and guided a 24-17 win over Tennessee.

■ Donovan McNair, Eagles, threw for 356 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score in Philadelphia's 30-13 win at Detroit.

Running backs

■ Onterio Smith, Vikings, had 94 yards rushing and 104 yards receiving in a 27-22 win over Chicago. In the same game, Thomas Jones rushed for 110 yards and added 71 yards receiving for the Bears.

■ Jamal Lewis, Ravens, ran for 186 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown sprint that clinched a 30-20 win over the Bengals. Lewis has topped 100 yards in all seven career matchups against Cincinnati.

■ Chris Brown, Titans, became only the second back since 1978 to rush for 100 yards in each of his first three starts with 101 vs. Jacksonville, Stump Mitchell did it in his first four starts with the then-St. Louis Cardinals in 1980.

■ Aaron Stecker, Saints, replacing injured Deuce McAllister, had 100 yards rushing with 443 yards rushing in four-plus seasons. He had 106 yards in the game Sunday, including a 42-yard touchdown run, in a 28-25 win over the Rams.

■ Tim Barber, Giants, had 106 yards rushing and an 8-yard touchdown and added 48 yards receiving in a 27-10 win over Cleveland.

Receivers

■ Randy Moss, Vikings, had 119 yards receiving and two TDs in a 27-22 victory against the Bears.

■ Isaac Bruce, Rams, caught eight passes for 136 yards, his third straight 100-yard day. The last time Bruce had three straight 100-yard receiving games was in 1995, when he had six in a row.

■ Rookie Roy Williams, Lions, had nine receptions for 135 yards and two TDs, the second straight week he scored twice, but Detroit's 27-22 win over the Packers.

■ Reggie Wayne, Colts, made 11 receptions for 184 yards and 10, while Brandon Stokley had eight catches for 110 yards and two scores in a 45-31 win over the Packers. Both were career highs for quarterbacks.

■ Jason Walker, Packers, had 11 receptions for 108 yards and three TDs in the same game. He, too, set a career high in catches and yards.



SPORTS

Dynamic duel



Roethlisberger, Steelers have no problems with hurricane or Dolphins, Page 29



AP photos

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, above, threw five touchdowns in the first half and finished with 393 yards passing. His five TD tosses were the most in a half since Minnesota's Tommy Kramer threw five in 1996. Packers quarterback Brett Favre, left, had 358 yards passing and four touchdowns in a losing effort.

Manning, Favre combine for 751 yards, 9 TDs in Colts' win

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning and Brett Favre threw touchdown pass after touchdown pass, moving the ball as if the defenses were little more than speed bumps.

The dizzying array of offense produced nine touchdowns and no interceptions. Midway through the fourth quarter, Favre mounted another drive, hoping to throw for another score.

That is, until rookie cornerback Jason David stepped up.

David ripped the ball away from Javon

Walker, and Nick Harper recovered the fumble to help preserve the Colts' 45-31 victory Sunday.

"As soon as I got to the guy, the ball was showing," David said. "It's kind of early in the season, but every chance we get to make the big play, we've got to make it."

The play changed the complexion of a game that had been anything but defensive. Favre and Manning combined to throw for 751 yards. Eleven minutes into the game, the Colts (2-1) and Packers (1-2) had already combined for 35 points. The Colts ran the ball only once in the first 15 minutes — a play negated by an offside penalty — while Manning threw for 247 yards and three TDs in the first quarter alone.

Neither team had an answer until David and Harper teamed to produce the only significant turnover of the game.

"This was a game of two guys who didn't want to lose," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "I hadn't seen Brett in three years, and I can't say that I miss him."

The MVP quarterbacks lived up to their billing with mind-boggling numbers.

Manning completed 28 of 40 passes for 393 yards and five touchdowns, his third regular-season game since Sept. 28, 2003, with at least five TD passes. Manning threw all five in the first half, the first time a quarterback threw that many in a half

since Minnesota's Tommy Kramer did it in 1986.

Favre nearly matched him, finishing 30-for-44 for 358 yards and four touchdowns, including a 79-yarder to Walker, before sitting out the Packers' final series with an injured left hamstring. Favre said it wasn't serious enough to keep him out of action next week.

Receivers on both sides also had career days.

Reggie Wayne caught 11 passes for 184 yards, both career-highs, and one TD. Brandon Stokley caught eight passes for a career-high 110 yards and two TDs.

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Rough weekend for NFL QBs: Gannon breaks vertebra; McNair in hospital; Grossman out for season

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Angels' rally pulls them within one game of Athletics in tight AL West

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Hornets' Mashburn to miss entire NBA season Page 25

